

Clashes erupt in Athens University

ATHENS (Agencies) — Police and youths clashed Saturday near Athens University's chemistry faculty where left-wingers who have been occupying the building for 48 hours say they will blow it up if police break in. Meanwhile about 60 others occupying the Athens Law School in sympathy with the chemistry building sit-in left peacefully after a day of tension and periodic scuffles in which riot police sealed off the area. After a series of emergency sessions of the university senate, the only body allowed to lift the immunity of faculty buildings from police intervention, academics gave the chemistry building's occupiers till Monday to leave. But as police and youths began throwing stones at one another near the chemistry school, the occupiers said they were determined to stay inside until 14 people arrested in bitter street-fighting on Thursday night were freed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الوأي»

Volume 10 Number 2867

AMMAN, SUNDAY MAY 12, 1985, SHABAN 20, 1405

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent sends condolences to King Fahd

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable of condolences to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia upon the death of Prince Abdul Mohsen Ibn Abdul Aziz, governor of Medina and a brother of King Fahd. In his cable, Prince Hassan said he received the news of Prince Abdul Mohsen's death with "great sorrow and deep regret" and that he shared King Fahd in his deep sorrow over the death of his brother.

Mubarak, Schmidt discuss Mideast

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak had a private working lunch with former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt Saturday to discuss Middle East peace prospects. Egyptian sources said Mr. Mubarak explained his latest proposals for a Middle East settlement, while Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Maguid met Mr. Schmidt later Saturday. They said Mr. Schmidt would carry their views to Israel, where he is due to visit on Monday for talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other officials. Mr. Schmidt arrived here Friday on a private visit.

Benjedd, Castro begin talks

HAVANA (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedd and Cuban leader Fidel Castro Saturday held their first round of formal talks, focusing on problems facing the developing world, diplomatic sources said. Mr. Benjedd arrived in Havana Friday night on a three-day official visit and after a warm welcome from Mr. Castro received the Order of Jose Marti, the highest Cuban honour awarded to foreigners. Both countries are leading members of the Non-Aligned Movement which groups about 100 mainly developing nations and Third World problems are likely to take up most of the talks over the weekend, the sources said.

Main Sikh party leader resigns

NEW DELHI (R) — Harchand Singh Longowal Saturday resigned from the presidency of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The news followed a spate of Sikh extremist bomb attacks in the Indian capital as well as India's northern and western states which killed more than 60 people Friday night and Saturday (see page 8).

Pope arrives in Netherlands

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (R) — Pope John Paul arrived in a four-day visit in which he will try to bring reconciliation to a divided Dutch Catholic Church and to win over a suspicious public. Demonstrations at Eindhoven airport were banned and only some 4,000 out of an expected 10,000 spectators were present as the Pope's Alitalia flight touched down.

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Shultz arrives today amid signs of new moves in peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrives today, Sunday, in Aqaba for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials amid signs that the U.S. is moving from the exploratory stage to the serious stage in efforts to settle the Palestinian problem through peace negotiations.

Mr. Shultz is expected to fly into Aqaba after paying a brief visit to Egypt and talks there with President Hosni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials. Mr. Shultz, who arrived in Israel Friday and held talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin after attending a ceremony at a war memorial on Friday, was reported to have secured the approval of the Israeli premier for U.S. contacts with Palestinians who are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to explore the possibility of opening an American dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation prior to broader peace talks.

"What we do not want is to sidetrack the whole process with American-Arab negotiations," said an official close to Mr. Peres who spoke to the Associated Press after the Israeli leader said Mr. Shultz met for four and a half hours Friday night.

"But the Americans have in the past met with non-PLO members, and any contact with non-PLO members that is conducive to direct talks with Israel is fine with us," the official added, speaking on condition he was not further identified.

In an apparent sign of progress, Mr. Shultz planned an additional unscheduled meeting with Mr. Peres early Sunday.

"A serious effort is under way to coordinate positions in an effort to get the peace process started," the Israeli official said. "This is a step in the right direction."

American officials, speaking on condition they were not identified, also characterised the Shultz-Peres talks as "positive."

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Mr. Peres excluded only declared members of the PLO from a place at the peace table, the senior Israeli official said.

The official declined to rule out the possibility that the PLO could approve Palestinian members of a joint delegation.

Asked if Israel would object if Palestinian delegates were approved by the PLO or met with the PLO, the official said: "We oppose nothing further to add."

An earlier State Department suggestion that members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile, might be acceptable partners in the joint delegation was ruled out by Israeli officials who equated it with the PLO.

Both Mr. Peres' Labour Party and the Likud bloc headed by Mr. Shamir are steadfast and united in ruling out participation by known PLO members.

But they are less clear and even divided on whether members of the PNC are automatically excluded.

Defence Minister Rabin, a prominent Labourite, told reporters Friday that technically at least, any of the 1.3 million Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territory are eligible.

And yet, an official close to Mr. Peres, who demanded anonymity, told reporters only a few hours later that the council was as unacceptable as the PLO itself.

The Israeli government, a hybrid of hardliners and moderates, often has to struggle to reach a common position on controversial issues.

The Palestinian problem tends to accentuate their differences. But, on the surface at least, Israeli government officials are asserting

a willingness to deal with at least some Palestinians in the interest of getting peace talks started.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, in an interview published by the Kuwait newspaper Al-Sayassah, was quoted as saying that Jordan and the PLO had agreed to direct talks with Washington but not with Israel.

"We are talking now of direct negotiations between the PLO and only the U.S. administration through a joint delegation, and the outcome (of the negotiations) will determine the next step," Mr. Masri said.

The foreign minister said the next step as envisaged in the Jordan-PLO agreement of Feb. 11 was to convene an international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to work out an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Mr. Masri was further saying that the PLO had nominated members to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks with Washington.

The list had been communicated by Jordan to the U.S. administration and Jordan was hoping for the reply when Mr. Shultz arrived in Jordan on Sunday, Mr. Masri was quoted as saying.

He said the Palestinian struggle was protracted "and there is no place for rashness."

The Chinese leader also said that unity was the key to success in resolving the Palestinian problem and called on Palestinians and other Arab nations to resolve their differences and seek common ground. Xinhua reported.

The joint delegation's meeting with Mr. Deng capped a successful visit during which China has offered some of the firmest backing it has yet given to the PLO. At a banquet Friday night in honour of the joint delegation, which is headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang attacked Israel and its supporters as the main obstacles to a Middle East peace settlement.

Mr. Arafat said in reply: "The U.S. ought to realise the era is irrevocably past of not recognising the inherent rights of the Palestinian people."

"We cherish friendship with the Chinese people and attach importance to China's help and support," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

"Our goal is to liberate Palestinian territory and under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to establish on

the land of Palestine, our own country that will be part of a confederation with Jordan," Mr. Arafat said.

In a meeting with the joint delegation earlier Friday, Mr. Zhao attacked Washington and Israel as the main obstacles to progress in efforts for peace in the Middle East.

China is the first of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, also including the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, approached by the joint delegation to explain the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

The delegation includes Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nuzeibah and PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Fateh Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan.

It was not known Saturday whether the delegation was expected to visit any other permanent member state of the Security Council or when it would return to Amman.

Prior to the delegation's formal talks at the Great Hall of People on Saturday, Mr. Arafat thanked Mr. Deng for receiving him and the delegation.

Mr. Deng embraced the PLO leader in the presence of reporters who were allowed to witness the first few minutes of conversation.

"I am very happy to see you so healthy," Mr. Arafat said through a translator, to which Mr. Deng replied: "Recently I have had a cold, and my health is not so good."

Mr. Arafat told Mr. Deng: "We thank you for making efforts to see us. It is a great source of inspiration."



Deng Xiaoping, China's number one leader, escorts Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to their seats in the Great Hall of People in Peking where the elderly Chinese statesman held talks with the joint team Saturday (AP wirephoto)

Joint team meets top Chinese leader

PEKING (Agencies) — A joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation met top Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping Saturday after securing strong support for joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem and the idea of an international conference on the Middle East to achieve such a settlement.

Mr. Deng, who received the delegation at the Great Hall of People, reiterated China's support for the Palestinians, the Xinhua news agency said.

He said the Palestinian struggle was protracted "and there is no place for rashness."

The Chinese leader also said that unity was the key to success in resolving the Palestinian problem and called on Palestinians and other Arab nations to resolve their differences and seek common ground. Xinhua reported.

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40 feared dead in stadium fire

BRADFORD, England (R) — Forty people are believed to have died and 37 were badly injured Saturday when fire swept through a northern England football stadium, a senior police officer said. Rescuers are searching for more bodies in the remains of the main stand of the Bradford City Club, police said. The mainly timber grandstand of the stadium caught fire during a league match between Bradford City and Lincoln City, trapping about 2,500 people. The stand was almost totally destroyed. The blaze was started by a spectator playing with matches, according to one police spokesman. As the flames roared through the stand, spectators, many with their hair and clothes on fire, fled on to the pitch. At another football match in Birmingham, central England, police said at least 70 people were injured, one critically, in rioting at a game between Birmingham City and Leeds United. Authorities had earlier said two people were feared dead.

Hussein, Fahd confer in Jeddah

JEDDAH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia held talks Saturday on the current situation in the Middle East, joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves for a just settlement to the Palestinian problem and bilateral relations.

King Hussein, who arrived here earlier Saturday accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, was received by King Fahd at the airport.

Arab diplomats underscored the importance of the two leaders' talks, noting that the meeting came just 24 hours before a planned visit to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is expected to review with King Hussein the progress made in efforts for peace in the Middle East after Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached an agreement last February on a formula for joint action towards a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The King visited Kuwait and Bahrain last week and, according to sources quoted by Reuters, is due in Qatar on Tuesday and the United Arab Emirates on the following day. The King was expected to return to Amman late Saturday or early Sunday for the planned meeting with Mr. Shultz in Aqaba.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday chairs the first meeting of a working committee entrusted with drawing up the 1986-1990 Five-Year-Development Plan (Petra photo)

Regent initiates work on next 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday presided over part of the first meeting of the working committee of the Five-Year Development Plan (1986-1990) which was held at the Ministry of Planning.

Prince Hassan called on the committee members to benefit from the previous plans and to avoid committing the same mistakes which occurred during these plans when drawing up the forthcoming plan. He stressed the importance of taking into consideration Jordan's strategic location and encouragement of foreign investment.

Prince Hassan also stressed the importance of achieving integration between labour exploring countries and labour improving ones and highlighted the role played by educational institutions in meeting the demand for labour force inside and outside Jordan. He also called for immediate followup work on various development projects for finding suitable methods to enable the Ministry of Planning to have a clear picture of the sectoral and regional projects of the five-year-plan every six months.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh emphasised the importance of directing special attention to the local labour force and employing them for implementing the plans for economic and social reasons and to prevent the occurrence of unemployment among Jordanians.

Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nsour, chairman of the committee, submitted the committee's plan of work to Prince Hassan and said that the committee will receive development plans from the local administrations in various governorates and districts to obtain the citizens' views about these plans and to train them to take part in drawing up future development plans.

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Israelis announce 4 new settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Four new Jewish settlements are to be established in the occupied West Bank during the next four months, Israel Radio reported Friday.

The four were among six settlements authorised by the bipartisan government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres last year as a "compromise" between his Labour party's request for a settlement freeze and the Likud Party's demand for increased settlement. The Associated Press said.

The radio said the decision was announced by the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental department in charge of settlement projects.

All four settlements are to be built in areas of the West Bank which the Labour Party considers "vital to Israeli security" and "would like to retain in a peace settlement" with the Arabs, the AP said.

There are currently about 110 settlements in the West Bank with 45,000 Jewish settlers. There are 800,000 Palestinians in the territory, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

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PFLP-GC rejects reports of planned prisoner swap

DAMASCUS (AP) — A Libyan-backed Palestinian commando group on Saturday denied reports that an agreement has been reached to exchange three Israeli soldiers it holds prisoner with more than 1,000 Palestinians in Israel jails.

"The report is unfounded," said Fadel Shroushrou, spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) which has been holding the three Israeli soldiers since the early stages of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Negotiations are continuing between us and the Israelis through the International Red Cross for a swap," Mr. Shroushrou told the Associated Press in an interview at the front's headquarters in Damascus.

"What counts for us is to free the largest number possible of our comrades held in Israeli jails in the occupied territories," he said.

A U.S. television report said the two sides have agreed to the exchange and that it will take place in Switzerland early next week over two days.

The television report said some of the freed Palestinians will be flown to Libya and others will return to their homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Jean-Jacques Kurz, spokesman for the International

Ortega meets Gonzalez

MADRID (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived Saturday and immediately met Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whom he was expected to ask for support against the trade embargo imposed by the United States.

Mr. Ortega flew to Madrid from East Berlin at the end of an East European tour. Mr. Gonzalez met him at the airport and the two socialists went straight to the prime minister's offices at the Moncloa Palace for talks.

The Reagan administration, accusing the Sandinist government of Mr. Ortega of sowing "revolution" in Central America, has financed right-wing Nicaraguan guerrillas, and tightened the screw this month by imposing the embargo.

Mr. Gonzalez had said he would try to ease U.S.-Nicaraguan tensions in Saturday's talks but did not seek a mediating role. He has urged Washington to resume talks with Managua, broken off last January.

Spanish officials said he would discuss with Mr. Ortega his concern over Nicaragua's increasing ties with the Soviet Union and fears that direct action like the embargo could backfire.

(See related story on page 8)

New Falangist leader wins support in E. Beirut

By William MacLean
Reuter

BEIRUT — Residents of Christian east Beirut appear to be giving strong support to the controversial new Christian militia chief who is trying to ease tension with Syria, the major power broker in Lebanon.

Elie Hobeika, widely accused by Muslims of involvement in the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, was appointed on Thursday as interim head of the "Lebanese Forces".

He has called for national dialogue, in marked contrast to recent threats by the militia's fiery chief of staff, Samir Geagea, to avenge civil war losses by force and by a senior official Friday calling opponents the "new Nazis".



Samir Geagea

Mr. Hobeika quickly declared that Syria had a central role to play in the country.

Falangist interviewed at random in east Beirut predict he will slow a revolt led by Geagea against President Amin Gemayel's Syrian alliance.

One of those interviewed, Samir, a Greek Orthodox lawyer, said the rise of Hobeika was a step for peace. "Geagea is honest, but we are fed up with this dirty war."

Walid, a 49-year-old jeweller, said: "People here are tired of war. Hobeika knows all roads eventually lead to Rome."

A group of Maronite Christian students told Reuters they thought Geagea had merely been put "in the background" in a bid to calm sectarian fighting in Beirut. Ziad, 19, said: "Lots of people don't like Geagea's style, so they've replaced him."

Recent fighting between Falangists and opposition in Beirut that has killed nearly 70 people is seen in opposition political circles as reflecting Syrian pressure to quell Geagea, who has past links with Israel, and restore Gemayel

to dominance in the Christian community.

Political sources in east Beirut, however, said Hobeika's promotion looked at first sight unlikely to satisfy Syria.

It did not alter the rebels' fundamental antipathy to Syria and would only delay an "explosion" between Syria and the Lebanese Forces, one source said.

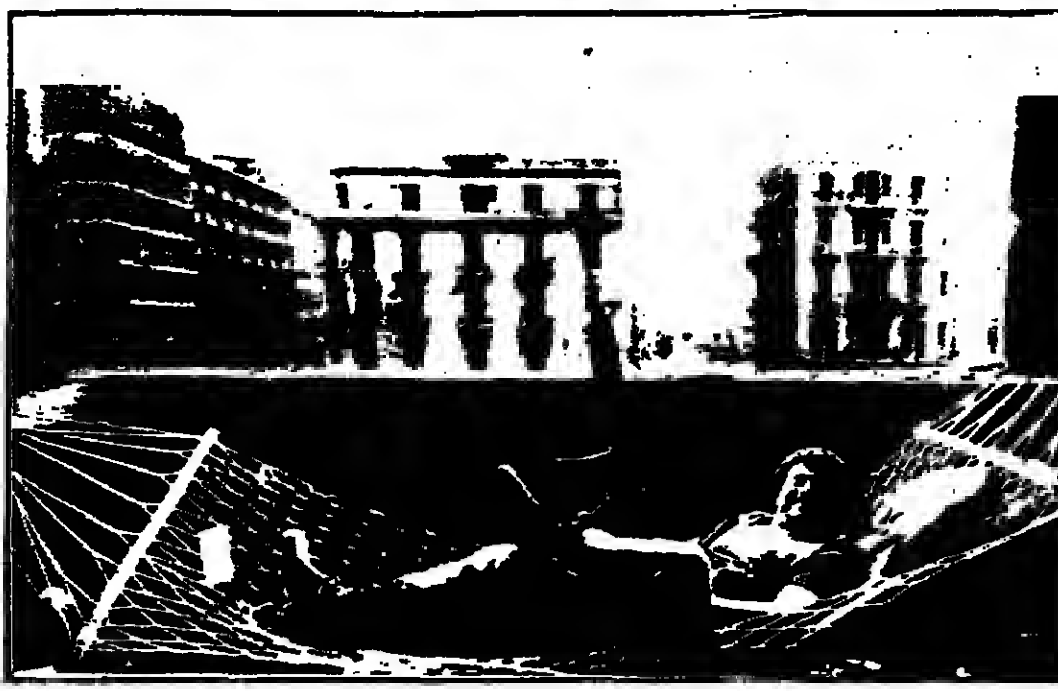
A former foreign minister told Reuters that although there was a "difference of temper between Geagea and other Lebanese Forces leaders" he doubted whether Syria would ever agree to talk directly with the militia's current leaders.

A Lebanese Forces militiaman guarding the east Beirut headquarters said it did not matter who commanded him "as long as the Lebanese Forces stay strong".

A source in regular contact with both Geagea and moderate Maronite Christian politicians added: "The Lebanese Forces are cornered. They have been trying for two months to open private contacts with the Syrians, but the Syrians keep saying 'no'. And the Israelis have abandoned them by withdrawing from Lebanon."

With Israel leaving, why should Syria agree to deal with two people (Geagea and Hobeika) who have championed the Israeli option?" he asked.

Hobeika's appointment was not the radical change at the top of the Lebanese Forces that Syria wanted, he said.



A militiaman of the "Lebanese Forces" relax in a swing along Beirut's "green line" during a brief lull in fighting Saturday morning (AP wirephoto)

Missile kills 8 Iranians in Kharg

TEHRAN (R) — A single Iraqi missile attack killed eight of the nine Iranians who died in an operation to cap a leaking offshore oil well in the Gulf, an Iranian official said Saturday.

Mohammad Aghaie, managing director of the Iranian Offshore Drilling Company, told a press conference the eight technicians were making parts to cap the Norouz Five well when a missile hit their workshop at the Kharg Island oil terminal on March 18.

Iraq has attacked the terminal several times since the Gulf war erupted in September 1980. It has also hit tankers and merchant ships serving Kharg and other Iranian ports in a bid to strangle Iran's oil exports and cut off the revenue needed to sustain its war effort.

Iran rarely confirms the attacks, and Mr. Aghaie declined to give

further details of the raid in which the technicians died.

The Oil Ministry said earlier this week that nine men had died in the operation to cap Norouz Five, which was completed five days ago. The ninth was the captain of a repair boat killed in another Iraqi raid.

The well was hit by an Iraqi missile and set ablaze early in 1983. A second strike about four months ago damaged a tap just under the surface, and the well was spilling some 5,000 barrels of crude a day into the Gulf, Mr. Aghaie said.

Two other wells, Norouz Three and 10 which were also damaged two years ago, were capped earlier. Iran hoped shortly to cap another burning well — Norouz Six, which shared a production platform with Norouz Five — but there was no longer any leakage of

crude from Iranian offshore wells, he said. He added the wells would be out of action until the end of the war.

The leaks sparked a major pollution alert in the Gulf in 1983, with oil washed up on beaches along the southern shores of the waterway.

Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar — those nearest to the leaking wells — drew up emergency plans to combat a slick said at one time to be as big as Belgium and threatening vital installations such as desalination plants.

But the threatened disaster never materialised. Pollution experts said the size of the slick was exaggerated by unreliable survey reports, while the lighter elements of the oil evaporated and much of the residue sank to the bottom of the sea.

Accused Sartawi killer acquitted

ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (Agencies) — A young Palestinian was acquitted of the 1983 murder of a leading PLO moderate in Portugal but was sentenced to three years imprisonment for entering the country with a false passport.

The verdict was similar to that handed down at an earlier trial more than a year ago, later annulled by the supreme court, in which Youssef Al Awad was cleared of the killing of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moderate Issam Sartawi.

Awad's lawyer requested his release under conditional liberty on the grounds that he had already served most of his sentence under the earlier conviction.

The jury at the retrial, held in this southern seaside resort, Friday also cleared Awad of two other charges of the attempted murder of Dr. Sartawi's secretary and illegal possession of a gun but convicted him of having used a false passport.

The jury decided that Awad had taken no direct part in the killing

of Dr. Sartawi, who was gunned down in the lobby of an Albufeira hotel during a Socialist International congress.

It found that he had obstructed police investigations by pretending to be the killer but he was not sentenced for this.

The defendant was arrested hours after Dr. Sartawi's killing after taking a taxi from Albufeira to Lisbon — 281 kilometres north. He confessed to Portuguese police days later that he had killed Dr. Sartawi.

But in the 1984 trial he withdrew his confession, claiming he had only acted as a decoy for "friends".

Dr. Sartawi, a U.S. trained cardiologist, was a leading PLO moderate who lobbied for direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israel and was a close confidant of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The defendant said he was a member of Fateh and Abu Nidal, the radical Palestinian group that opposes any form of negotiation with Israel.

Rabin: Army morale hurt by Lebanon occupation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that Israel's soldiers were suffering from poor morale because of commando attacks in Lebanon.

The ambushes and suicide attacks which have plagued Israel in the last year and a half, which have the backing and support of the majority of the population, is the ugliest and crudest kind of war," he said.

"There is no clearcut line between the fighting force and the

population," he told foreign reporters. "You don't know if a girl driving up to a roadblock is just a normal girl, or a suicide bomber. You don't know if a civilian walking along a road is just a civilian."

"There will be a different feeling once the soldiers know they are defending Israel, and not our presence in Lebanon," he said.

However, he added that Israeli troops would not hesitate to return to Lebanon if attacks were launched against northern Israeli border settlements.

Shultz arrives today amid new signs

(Continued from page 1)

estrian representatives to any talks between the United States and the proposed joint delegation, and be seen to be doing so.

"No compromise can be made on this. This is the main principle and it must be declared openly that the PLO has nominated the Palestinians in the delegation," he told Reuters.

Referring to the U.S. suggestion of including PNC members in the joint delegation, the official said: "This might be accepted. Why not? But it would be announced that the PLO nominated them and they would be representing it officially."

The official said the PLO rejected any direct negotiations with Israel before an international Middle East peace conference. Later, "when it comes to the details there should be direct negotiations," the PLO official said.

In Moscow, the official said, Mr. Shultz, saying it had nothing to do with efforts to reach a settlement in the region.

It accused Mr. Shultz of seeking to impose on Arab states a " Reagan plan" which only favoured Israel.

Calling Washington and Tel Aviv "partners in the anti-Arab

strategic alliance," it said their proposals for a Mideast solution ignored the PLO.

Mr. Shultz's first contacts on his trip showed that in reality his efforts have nothing to do with a truly just Middle East settlement," the news agency said.

Mr. Shultz is expected to hold a press conference in Aqaba on Monday before leaving for home later in the day.

In Washington on Friday, State Department Deputy Spokesman Edward Djerejian said the Reagan administration is "firmly opposed" to legislation which would ban contacts between the United States and the PLO although it has been U.S. policy since late 1975 not to engage in substantive contacts or discussions with PLO officials.

His comments came in response to questions about an article by columnist Philip Geyelin which appeared on the op-ed page of the Washington Post May 8. Geyelin asserted that such language is already included in a "continuing resolution" passed by Congress last October to provide a continuation of funding for government agencies whose budgets had not been approved before the Congress adjourned. And Geyelin said the State Department has encouraged "writing the same

language (with provision for emergencies) into some more permanent piece of legislation this year."

The deputy spokesman took sharp issue with Geyelin's contention.

In September 1975, the United States gave assurances to Israel as part of the Sinai II agreements not to recognise or negotiate with the PLO so long as the PLO does not recognise Israel's right to exist and does not accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Djerejian said.

"Consistent with this assurance, it has been the firm policy of the U.S. government that U.S. officials not engage in substantive contacts or discussions with officials of the PLO," the deputy spokesman said.

"The administration is firmly opposed to legislating such language," Djerejian declared, noting that this view was most recently made known in letters from Mr. Shultz to a number of senators, opposing the inclusion of such restrictions in the fiscal 1986 foreign assistance bill.

"The conduct of diplomacy is a unique responsibility of the president," Djerejian said. "Attempting to codify a nuanced and complex policy is not an appropriate function of the legislative branch of the government."

Sudan coup reshuffles alliances in north-east Africa

By Hamza Hendawi

CAIRO — Sudan's new army rulers are courting Libya and Ethiopia in a reshuffle of political alliances in north-east Africa in which Egypt looks like being the loser.

African and Western diplomats in the region said the Sudanese military, after ousting U.S. and Egyptian ally Jaafar Numeiri on April 6, decided their top priority was to end a rebellion by more than 15,000 guerrillas in southern Sudan.

The diplomats said that, with its campaign bogged down in the south's swampy and the war costing famine-stricken and nearly bankrupt Sudan a million dollars a day, the army's best hope was to woo the rebels' backers, Libya and Ethiopia.

Egypt, an historic ally and Sudan's colonial era ruler in partnership with Britain until 1956, lacked the influence or means to help in the mainly non-Arab, Christian and pagan south where rebellion against Numeiri flared two years ago.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, arch-foe of Egypt and of the ousted Numeiri, responded to overtures from the new army rulers early this month by sending a 40-man delegation to Khartoum, led by his number two, Abdul-Salam Jalloud, and by pledging to support the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

A Sudanese delegation meanwhile visited Ethiopia, where the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam may be looking for a reciprocal halt to Sudanese support for rebels in Ethiopia's Tigre province, diplomats in Cairo said.

While Ethiopia's rebels are fighting a Marxist government, the SPLA employs left-wing phraseology to call for a "popular democracy" in Sudan.

Rebel recruitment was boosted in 1983 when Numeiri imposed Sharia (Islamic Law) on the largely non-Muslim south. The thaw in Sudan's relations with Libya and Ethiopia was a dramatic departure from Numeiri's policies towards the neighbours. With Egypt's blessing, he accused them of seeking his over-

throw and broke off relations with Libya in 1979.

Egypt has said nothing publicly about the fence-mending with Libya by Sudan's military ruler General Abdul-Rahman Swadddah. Its state-owned media have kept news on Sudan to a minimum.

Egypt fought a border war with Libya in 1977 and remains deeply suspicious of Col. Qadhafi's intentions in the region, seeing his prompt support of the new Khartoum leadership as a bid to spread Libyan influence.

Egyptian officials say privately that Cairo has advised Sudan that keeping it out in the cold while dealing with Libya and Ethiopia on the south could weaken the Sudanese hand.

Foreign Ministry sources said Egypt, whose vital strategic interest in Sudan is the flow of Nile water, remained confident Sudan's leaders would eventually find their long-term interests lay in close ties with Cairo.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Some diplomats agree, saying Libya does not have much leverage with the SPLA, the main southern guerrilla group, after cutting aid to a trickle last year over ideological disputes.

Egypt, meanwhile, has moved in recent years to improve ties with Ethiopia, in part to try to help resolve its war with Sudan.

But the diplomats said several thorny issues, a legacy of Egypt's support for Numeiri, threatened to strain Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Egypt's decision to grant Numeiri asylum sparked protests in Khartoum, where new Prime Minister Ali Gazuoli Dafaia-Allah said his government would ask Cairo to hand him over for trial.

Dafaia Allah, a physician leading a caretaker cabinet under army supervision, told the monthly magazine Wadi Al-Nil (Nile Valley) that Cairo had in the past handed over Numeiri foes.

"Numeiri is a criminal who deserves punishment... even if he has the status of a political exile," Dr. Dafaia Allah said.

Beside the Numeiri asylum,

issue, many Sudanese politicians accuse Egypt and the United States of perpetuating Numeiri's autocratic 16-year rule by their political and military support.

But the Sudanese News Agency has also quoted Dr. Dafaia Allah as saying improved relations with one country would not be at the expense of another.

The army has promised elections within a year and lifted restrictions that Numeiri placed on political life. Among powerful politicians in Sadek Al Mahdi, leader of the Ummah Party which traditionally resents Egyptian influence.

Southern Sudanese accuse Egypt of robbing them of their natural resources by digging the Jonglei Canal.

The scheme aims to save huge volumes of Nile water from evaporation in the south's Sudd swamps and send it downstream for the benefit of the 48 million Egyptians. The southerners say it will upset the ecology and deprive their herds of grazing.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Kuran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:20 That's Incredible
19:20 Programmes Review
19:30 Health Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:40 Tomorrow's Programmes
22:30 News Programme
23:00 New Summary (in Arabic)
23:10 Religious Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:45
French Programme: Apostrophes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy: Allo Allo
21:10 History of Television
22:00 News in English
22:30 Scarecrow and Mrs. King

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:05 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
15:00 Concert Hour
16:05 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 News Summary
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 Evening Show Cont.
21:05 News Summary
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 News Summary
23:57 News Headline
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

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VOICE OF AMERICA

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Jordan, Morocco prepare agreement for cooperation in Islamic, Waqf affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Meetings of the Jordanian-Moroccan committee for Islamic cooperation started Saturday at the Ministry of Waqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The two parties expressed hope that the meeting will crystallise in an agreement to achieve the aspirations of both countries in the field of cooperation in Islamic and Waqf (Islamic endowment) affairs.

Speaking about the Islamic cooperation agreement to be concluded between the Ministries of Waqaf in both countries, Mr. Muhammad Murabet, secretary general of the Moroccan Ministry of Waqaf and Islamic Affairs said that it aims to develop Islamic ties and to intensify efforts in the field of preaching and dissemination of Islamic culture on the largest scale and to upgrade Islamic studies. The agreement also aims to direct attention to Islamic heritage and to exchange expertise in the field

of Islamic Waqf, he added.

Ministry of Waqaf Under Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is head of the Jordanian delegation, expressed hope that the agreement will include a provision on exchange of information, research and publications relating to Islamic culture and heritage and legislation on Waqf. He also voiced hope that exchange of expertise would be facilitated and that cooperation between the Islamic centres in both countries would be strengthened.

Jordan's delegation to the meetings includes Sheikh Mohammad Shagra, director of Al Aqsa Mosque at the ministry, while the Moroccan delegation comprises Chief Clerk of the Ministry of Waqaf Omar Ibn Ayyad and head of Islamic studies at the ministry Shaker Al Tijani in addition to Mohammad Al Dallat, the Moroccan embassy's counsellor in Amman.



REGENT RECEIVES ISLAMIC LEADER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday confers with Imam Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, the grand sheikh of Al Azhar Mosque in Egypt, who attended the fourth annual conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Baht Foundation) which was held in Amman May 6-9

Queen Noor to patronise first national conference on Jordanian women

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the General Federation for Jordanian Women (GFJW) will hold a three-day national conference on "The Jordanian Woman: Facts and Aspirations", which is to open Tuesday at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

Scholars and researchers who represent various governmental and non-governmental sectors in Jordan will evaluate the present and future status of women in Jordan as well as assessing women's role in the socio-economic development of the Kingdom, according to Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, the president of GFJW.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mrs. Bashir said that this conference is the first of its kind to be held on the national level and one in which men and women will have equal opportunities to discuss facts about Jordanian women and their aspirations. The importance of such a national conference Mrs. Bashir stressed stems from the fact that it precedes the United Nations Nairobi Conference which will review and appraise the achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women. The conference will also determine strategies for the development of women until the year 2000 and will convene on July 16.

Nairobi conference
Jordan will participate in the conference by submitting a working paper prepared by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and the GFJW will participate in the non-governmental

organisations conference or "The Forum" which will hold its discussions as part of the side-talks of the Nairobi Conference.

Mrs. Bashir said that during the three-day national conference, the papers to be presented during the Nairobi conference will be discussed and accredited by the participants and the delegations to represent Jordan at the official and non-official standards will also be nominated and assigned. The workshops to follow the inauguration ceremony will be held at the Regency Hotel in Amman and will discuss thematic subjects on "Equality, development and peace," in relation to the status of women in Jordan, Mrs. Bashir said.

Mrs. Bashir added that the national conference will also discuss issues in the context of the three mentioned themes and will shed more light on the health, education and unemployment of women in Jordan.

Objectives

Objectives of such a national conference are many and diverse, Mrs. Bashir said, but one of the main goals of the conference will be to acquire up-to-date statistical and research information about the conditions of women in Jordan. This data will be documented at the GFJW's documentation centre as references to be used in international, regional and local conferences and seminars on women, she added.

Another objective is to nominate candidates to represent Jordan's official and non-official delegations to attend the Nairobi Conference and the Forum's mee-

tings, Mrs. Bashir pointed out. Interested and qualified women will also have a chance to discuss issues pertaining to them without having to attend the Nairobi conference and an informative campaign which will add positive inputs to promote the status of Jordanian women will be achieved through such a national conference, Mrs. Bashir said.

At the end of the national conference, a special committee will be assigned to draw up a set of strategies for the development of women up to the year 2000 and this committee will also formulate recommendations of the conference which will be documented and used as references by all those who are to participate in the U.N. Nairobi Conference, she continued.

Working papers

Fourteen papers and researches to be presented during the national conference will cover subjects on: women in Islam, the political participation of Jordanian women, women in leadership and decision making positions, women's participation in international conventions, Jordanian women in the cultural and social context, women's role in the economic activities and production, nutrition, mother and child care, women and the mass media, local women's organisations and their impact on the women's movement, women and habitat, underprivileged women including the handicapped, the unemployed, and the aged, the status of women in the occupied territories, the conditions of refugee women in Jordan and Jordanian women's efforts in the peace process.

Ministry to promote industry, encourage free enterprise and privatisation—Muasher

Minister outlines proposals to revitalise industrial sector, improve production

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher Saturday said that his ministry will work towards the privatisation of large industrial projects, support free enterprise and private initiative as well as promoting mutual cooperation between both the public and the private sectors.

The ministry is also keen to open doors for international and regional investment in the Kingdom, in addition to giving more prominence to the private sector by boosting its contribution in all economic fields, Dr. Muasher said.

In the first press interview since he took office on April 5, Dr. Muasher said that the ministry would encourage the private sector to contribute to large industrial projects and that these concerns would not be exclusively run by the public sector.

He told the Jordan Times that the ministry's new approach is to facilitate measures relating to setting up different industries, but taking into consideration Jordan's needs for such industries and their products as well as export capabilities.

the high price of raw materials which was accompanied by an international drop in market prices. Vis-a-vis projected solutions to tackle the deterioration in the large industrial projects, Dr. Muasher said that the ministry will implement necessary measures to rectify the situation.

Speaking about these measures, he said that a helping hand would be given to these industries in a drive to reduce existing operating costs and to wipe out "technical suffocation", thereby boosting their production. Other measures would be to promote marketing on an international scale and to improve and develop the level of administration, he said.

Trade with Iraq

Speaking about his visit to Iraq with his Majesty King Hussein last week, Dr. Muasher said that he held comprehensive talks with Iraqi Minister of Trade Hassan Ali. The talks reviewed bilateral economic and trade cooperation since the last meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee, he added.

He said that he also tackled with his Iraqi counterpart horizons of mutual coordination aimed to bolster and develop the existing economic and trade ties between the two countries. They also tackled procedures relevant to importing Iraqi fuel products and activating the process of exporting Jordanian products to Iraq, Dr. Muasher said. Jordan's exports to Iraq were worth approximately JD 64 million.

Heavy industry

Several large industrial projects were established during the last five year national plan but some of these concerns have faced various difficulties in the first few years of operation, he pointed out.

The Aqaba-based Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company (JFIC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the South Cement Company (SCC) are facing continuous losses in their fiscal years.

The JFIC's imported raw materials represent 93 per cent of the production cost, whereas the only seven per cent of the budget is allocated for workers' salaries and operating processes.

The APC feasibility study did not take into consideration several issues when up-dated and the company has experienced technical difficulties which have meant that the company was not able to reach its design capacity production.

The SCC, although it produces fine quality cement of international standard, has experienced financial difficulties due to miscalculations in the feasibility study. When the study was first conducted in the seventies, there was a boom in the regional demand for cement, but by the time the SCC was operational the international demand for cement had declined and several industries were established in neighbouring countries.

Responding to a question on the large industrial projects which represented the backbone of former development plans, Dr. Muasher said that those large projects which cost JD 400 million, have faced several difficulties.

Costly mistakes

He cited the mistakes as "a lack of accuracy in implementing feasibility studies for these projects," in terms of speculated expenses, duration period and marketing possibilities. Other reasons, Dr. Muasher continued, was the lack of technical and qualified cadres to operate these projects, the sky-high operating costs and managing expenses which led to a jump in production costs.

Dr. Muasher also mentioned

lion in 1984.

One of the major goals of the ministry is to develop and promote economic ties with neighbouring Arab countries and to remove obstacles facing Jordanian exports to these countries, the minister said, adding that the ministry is also going to study proper ways to rationalise imports and to improve terms for the exchange of goods with foreign countries. This would reduce the deficit in the balance of trade with these countries, he said.

Industrial standards

Commenting on standardisation and metrology methods and the standards of national products, Dr. Muasher said the ministry, through its previous studies, has determined the obstacles facing the improvement in quality of several industrial sectors.

He said that the ministry's future plans in this regard are to follow up on studies conducted on the industrial sector in order to identify and define their technical defects. Once the flaws are defined, the ministry will help solve them and will apply regulations to control the quality of products, the minister said.

Last week, Dr. Muasher received the chairman of the board of directors of the SCC and the Jordan Cement Company at Fuhais to discuss the subject of merging the two companies and the best means to achieve the general aim of healing the problems facing the two concerns.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran has said that the aim of the meeting is to support the cement industry in the Kingdom and to give it the opportunity to maintain production for local and international markets.

In the meeting Dr. Muasher emphasised the necessity to take into consideration the rights of shareholders in any merging process.

Jordan to attend UNEP global environment talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 12-day meetings of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) conference to discuss global environmental issues, which will be held in Nairobi on May 14.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Awad Al Tal, who is also head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings, said Jordan will present a paper on Jordan's experience in the field of preservation of the environment and fighting pollution. The del-

egation will also explore the possibility of the programme's contribution to environmental projects in Jordan.

The delegation will also explain the environmental effects resulting from the Israeli project to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea and will introduce a draft resolution condemning the project.

The delegation groups Environment Department Director Sufian Al Tal and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning.

PTC to run bus service from Zarga to Jordan University

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) has decided to run a regular service between Zarga and the University of Jordan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported Saturday.

Petra said that the corporation will run two bus services; a direct one along the Yajouz Road and a second service through Ruseifeh and Amman.

Transport facilities between Zarga and the University of Jordan had been limited and inconvenient for many years until the last two years, when private sector

buses started regular and fast services between the two locations. Petra reported that fares collected from students will be the same fees decided upon by the Ministry of Interior and would equal the sum of fares from Zarga to Amman and to the university. The Public Transport Corporation, which runs bus services within Amman and to neighbouring towns has failed to run on a fixed schedule, to issue monthly or periodical tickets or to introduce students fares, Petra commented.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan to open science seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will Monday inaugurate a four-day seminar on preparing Arab citizens to be scientifically productive, at the Holiday Inn hotel in Amman, according to the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i. During the seminar, which will be organised by the Arab Unity Centre, in cooperation with Abdul Hamid Shouman Foundation, 15 research papers on science and society and role of institutions in achieving scientific development will be discussed.

'Round the clock' water for Irbid

IRBID (J.T.) — Water will be pumped around the clock this summer in Irbid governorate, the director of water supply department in Irbid has said. He added that the pumping capacity has been raised from 24,000 cubic metres a day to 40,000 cubic metres to cope with the needs of the population in Irbid Governorate. The director also called on all people who might suffer from water cuts for periods exceeding 24 hours to report such cuts to the department, which will in turn remedy the situation.

Society to attend road accident talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents has received an official invitation from the International Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents to take part in a meeting in Lisbon, scheduled for May 22. During the three day meetings, participants will discuss issues related to traffic jams and road accidents, in addition to safety rules and the prevention of accidents.

Top of the French class

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirteen-year-old Sama Jafri, a second preparatory student at the Rosary College in Shmeisani, has won the distinction of being first in the Kingdom in French oral and grammar (first-level) examinations conducted by the French language centre.

Sama, daughter of Suleiman and Laila Jafri, both doctors by profession, secured 180 marks out of a possible 200 to secure the distinction out of 700 students who sat for the examination, which was conducted in late April. Her runners-up was Sama Rashid with 177 marks.

A student of French since kindergarten, Sama says she owes her success to the "profound encouragement" of her mother and the "constant help" from her French-language teacher. The standard of the examination conducted was "higher than what we



Sama Jafri are being taught in our school," Sama told the Jordan Times. French is not a compulsory subject in the school curriculum, she added.

Easy listening from versatile, talented Midnight 'n Blue duo

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Presently performing every night at the Holiday Inn in Amman is the "Midnight 'n Blue" duo, Anita and John. It is a real pleasure to listen to Anita singing Dolly Parton's 'Jolene' or to John's interpretation of 'Strangers in the Night', Morris Albert's 'Feelings' or Stevie Wonder's 'I Just Called'.

'Midnight 'n Blue' and their music creates a very relaxed and cozy atmosphere where each one can find his favourite style of songs. Instant and easy contact with the audience is made thanks to the personal presence and charm of both performers.

MUSIC REVIEW

For those looking for a change from listening to selective music such as classical or jazz, but who still want quality variety music, "Midnight 'n Blue" is the duo to listen to.

Full-time, true professional English musicians, Anita and John have also been performing in Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. They have been teaching guitar to children in England and find this activity extremely interesting. Anita also plays bass guitar, but is not using this instrument in Jordan.

Learning to appreciate tradition by preserving Jordan's rich, diverse folklore

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Jordanian folklore is now becoming more and more known and appreciated abroad, Mr. Mahmoud Zyoudi, director of the Folklore Section at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities told the Jordan Times that emphasis should be put on getting Jordanian youth to appreciate their own traditions and to fight for the survival of these traditions.

"The new generation today is growing up watching television, substituting traditional cultural values with foreign ideals. Also, more and more youngsters are leaving their local towns to come to the cities, often forgetting about their roots," he said.

In order to preserve as much of these traditional roots from becoming forgotten as possible, Mr. Mahmoud said that the Folklore Section three years ago finished a large project to collect information about Jordanian fol-

klor from anyone they met all over the country. This material is now recorded in about 1,100 cassette tapes and includes music, traditions and the history of various places. This information is now being used by researchers who often come to consult the tape library and by the Jerash Festival organisers.

Jerash festival

The Jerash Festival is well known as the focal point of Jordan's local arts and local groups of musicians and folk dancers annually attend the festival. Mr. Zyoudi, who is preparing for the festival right now through meetings with the president and different committees, stresses the importance of this occasion, but clarifies that the first manifestation which brought thousands of Jordanians closer to their traditions through television was the festival for Samer and Dabke, held in December 1981 at the Hussein Youth City under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.



A local folklore group entertains at the Jerash Festival (J.T. file photo)

Arab history centre

"The purpose of this centre," Mr. Zyoudi continued, "is to help Europeans to understand the Arab World." Other countries to be represented at the centre will be Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and North and South Yemen. The institute will also include a large mosque.

Mr. Zyoudi said that the Jordanian wing will include folklore arts and crafts on bedouin life and village life, particularly emphasising the relationship between bedouins and farmers. He added that the expected completion of the institute will be in approximately six months.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Fahed Fanek

Taxes and budget do not meet

JORDANIANS PAY income tax of JD 50 million a year, municipal taxes of JD 20 million, social security deductions of JD 30 million, other direct taxes of JD 15 million; thus making the total of direct taxes in the order of JD 115 million.

Indirect taxes in the form of customs, excise, licenses, fees etc. amount to JD 250 million. The total taxes born by the Jordanian people would thus be JD 365 million.

These absolute figures become more meaningful in rel-

ative terms. In this respect, we find that 31.5 per cent of the total tax proceeds take the form of direct taxes on income or ownership, which is much higher a percentage than generally thought. The balance of 68.5 per cent takes the form of indirect taxes.

On the other hand, we note that Jordan's gross domestic product (GNP) is estimated at JD 1500 million. Total disposable income spent on investment and consumption of both the private and public sec-

tors amounts to JD 2300 million including external aid, expatriates remittances and income from investments abroad etc.

The tax burden is thus around 25 per cent of Jordan's GNP or 16 per cent of disposable income including exempted income derived from agriculture, interest, capital gains, and all public-sector income.

Is this a light burden or a heavy one? The answer depends on the yardstick used for

comparison and measurement. It is too heavy if compared with the tax effort in the developing countries of the "Third World": 12 per cent in the Philippines, 13 per cent in India, 23 per cent in Turkey and 23 per cent in Brazil. However, it is light if compared with the advanced industrial countries: 27 per cent in Japan, 31 per cent in the United States, 34 per cent in Italy, 36 per cent in Canada, 37 per cent in Germany, 40 per cent in Britain and 44 per cent in France.

In general, we can conclude that the tax burden in Jordan is moderate. It is to the high side if compared with countries similar to Jordan in the stage of economic development.

This being the case, one can wonder why the taxes paid by the Jordanian people, moderate or high as it may be, should fail to cover more than half the public expenditure in the budget, while the government had to cover the other half from non-tax income such as

profits, Arab and foreign financial support, or from commercial and development loans.

This fact indicates that the responsibility of the imbalance falls on the structure of the general budget and public expenditure policies and not on a lack of sufficient taxation.

We have a huge budget. It is too big for our own resources, and that is where something must be done to make ends meet.

Quneitra evokes bitter memory of Israeli occupation, identifies with South Lebanon

By Tod Rabberson
Reuter

QUNEITRA, Syria — "I am disgusted every time I look at this place," said Ahmad Awad Wadi as he looked down the main street of his home town on the Golan Heights.

Syrians have nicknamed Quneitra, once a commercial and agricultural centre, "The dead city" or "the city of ghosts".

Israeli forces occupied the town and evicted all but a dozen of Quneitra's 37,000 inhabitants when it seized the Golan Heights from Syria during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Syria briefly retook most of the Golan early in the October 1973 war but Israel regained it in a counter-attack.

Several months of shuttle diplomacy by then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger led to a disengagement accord under which Israel returned most of Quneitra to Syria. Before they left, Israeli troops used bulldozers, and explosives to level virtually every standing structure in sight.

Mr. Wadi, 52, who maintains the water system for the now largely deserted town, said he returned in June 1974 after President Hafez Al Assad raised the Syrian flag over Quneitra for the first

time in seven years.

"I almost went crazy. I didn't want to look at it. I craved to see my city alive again," he told Reuters.

Today, every street in Quneitra is lined with rubble from the hundreds of houses and shops razed before the Israelis departed to new frontlines on the town's southern outskirts.

The Syrian government has ordered the rubble to remain uncleaned as a "monument to Israel's barbaric practices", an official guide said.

"Quneitra was not a scene of fighting when the Israelis did this," he explained. "None of this destruction was necessary."

Many Syrians view the scene in Quneitra as an eerie harbinger of recent Israeli actions against civilians in South Lebanon in retaliation for resistance attacks against Israeli occupation forces there.

Whenever he hears news from South Lebanon that Israeli bulldozers have demolished civilian houses, Mr. Wadi, who lives alone in one of the few Quneitra buildings still standing, says he feels "as if the Israelis have destroyed my own house again, because we have shared the same tragedy".

"Someday we will invade the Golan and take back our land, fit

our right," said a Quneitra policeman peering toward the Israeli frontier.

Barely 100 metres away was a sign in big blue letters saying: "Welcome to Israel."

In 1982, Israel annexed the part of the Golan Heights it held, including a series of strategic hills overlooking Quneitra about three kilometres to the east.

The town is split by a disengagement line, patrolled by the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), running the entire 45-kilometre length of the Golan Heights from Lebanon's southeastern border to the northeastern edge of Jordan.

UNDOF has 1,290 men from Austria, Canada, Finland and Poland deployed along the line.

Only UNDOF troops, about 75 Syrian policemen and half-a-dozen shepherds who graze their sheep on the undergrowth are now in Quneitra, keeping company with Mr. Wadi whose present house is covered with anti-Israel graffiti.

Quneitra also has an elementary school, attended by about 20 children from nearby farms.

On a bright day early this month, half-a-dozen Israeli buses piled along a road carved into the hills, where tourists were afforded

a spectacular view of the fertile green valley below.

Despite the peaceful looking scenery, reminders of war were everywhere.

Atop the tallest peak, Tel Abu Nader, nicknamed "spying hill" by the Syrians, sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment enables Israel to monitor military activity deep inside Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

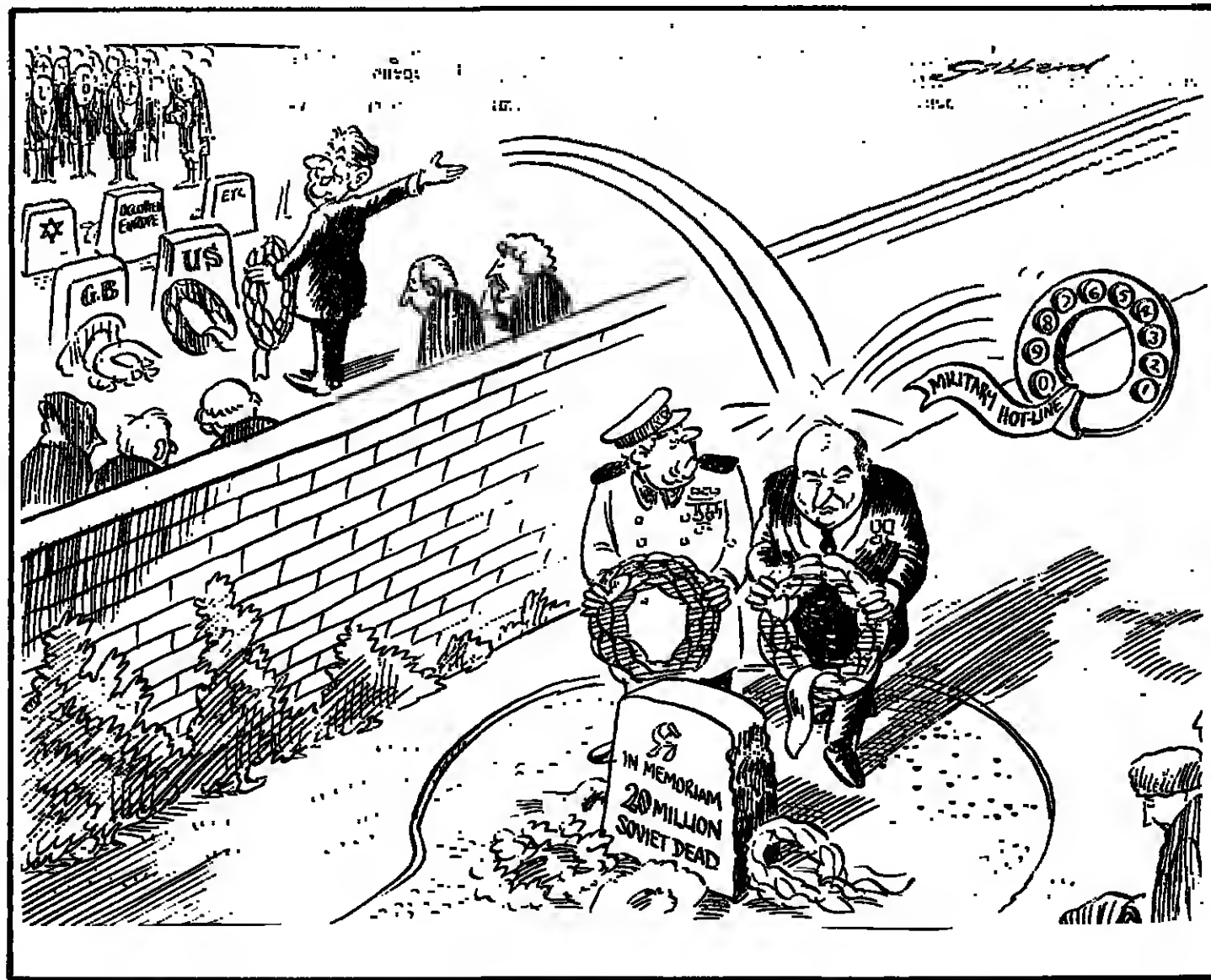
The sounds of nearby Israeli artillery and automatic weapons fire were clearly audible from a nearby practice range.

Under the 1974 disengagement accord, Syrian military personnel and equipment are not allowed within 12 kilometres of the disengagement line.

This is not a hot zone, like in Cyprus, the guide said, referring to a similar U.N.-patrolled disengagement line between Turkish and Greek-Cypriot forces, where taking pictures is not allowed.

"Not a single shot has been fired across the (Quneitra) frontline since 1974. Here, you can take pictures of anything you want," he added.

"Be sure to smile, though," he said, waving a hand toward Tel Abu Nader. "You can be sure the Israelis are taking pictures of you, too."



Austria proud of its armed neutrality

By David Storey
Reuter

VIENNA — Austria, the central European state with good Eastern friends but a Western way of life, celebrates 30 years of post-war independence this week.

The anniversary will be marked by tributes from East and West to Austria's neutrality, a policy which has created a special role for the small state at the hub of Europe.

The issue of neutrality has been given a high profile recently by plans to modernise the tiny armed forces, and charges that Vienna serves as a conduit for Western high technology to the Communist bloc.

Austria declared its permanent neutrality on the Swiss model in 1955, months after the signing of the May 15 state treaty by the four World War II occupying powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain.

It is essentially a military concept, though foreign and eco-

nomie policies are geared to even-handedness to create conditions for neutrality in time of a conflict.

Neutrality has no direct effect on domestic policies and Austria fits into the general concept of a Western country.

The political system is based on Western-style multi-party democracy, with freedom of the press and travel. Although much of the major industry is state-owned a sense of free enterprise prevails.

Yet Austria enjoys a special relationship with Eastern European countries because of its independence from any military alliance or from economic-political groups, like the European Community, which would involve some surrender of sovereignty.

The Soviet News Agency Novosti said Austria had won the trust of all states and contributed to peaceful coexistence.

Vienna has been the site of Soviet-U.S. summits and is home for three United Nations bodies. Until 1918 Austria was the

home-base for the Hapsburg Empire, one of the most powerful forces in European history.

But the country was devastated and politically castrated after World War II, after being incorporated into Nazi Germany and then split into zones of influence by the victorious allies.

A commitment to neutrality was an unwritten condition of the 1955 state treaty restoring independence, which led to the only Russian withdrawal from territory occupied by Soviet forces in the war.

The concept of neutrality was aired widely in the last year as the government decided to buy 24 Swedish-made interceptor planes for the air force, ending a long-running public debate.

"We embrace the concept of armed neutrality, so we must take it seriously. We must be able to show other countries that we are prepared to defend it," said Defence Minister Friedrich Frischenschlager.

He noted there were up to 40

border violations by foreign planes each year.

No-one seriously imagines Austria could hold up an invasion from any of its NATO or Warsaw Pact neighbours and many argue it is pointless to maintain a military machine which could not defend the country anyway.

Compared to the other neutral European state — Finland, Sweden and Switzerland — Austria's armed forces are small and ill-equipped. Little over one per cent of the gross domestic product is spent on defence.

Under the state treaty Austria is forbidden many types of weapon considered standard by most armies. They include any guided missile or weapon which will fire more than 30 kilometres.

While the Swiss have more than 300 combat aircraft, including 103 modern U.S.-built F5s, Austria has just 32 Saab 105s, an outdated aircraft quite incapable of catching a modern jet flashing across the country in a matter of minutes.

Settle settlements first

THE U.S. secretary of state's visit to Jordan and Egypt today should be clouded by the arrival of news from Israel yesterday that four new Jewish settlements are to be established in the occupied West Bank during the next four months. Or so at least goes the Israeli logic.

It really does not matter whether these settlements are part of the six or any other authorised by the "coalition" government last year. What matters is that the Israelis are continuing with their Judaisation policy of the occupied territories, regardless of who is in power in Israel and in total defiance of U.S. policy in the Middle East and contrary to international laws and U.N. resolutions.

The fact that the Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental department in charge of settlement projects, has chosen to announce the establishment of these four settlements, while the secretary of state was still in Israel reiterating his country's "eternal support" for the Jewish state, means more to us than the simple propaganda line that is a favourite of Israeli politicians on such occasions. The announcement is no doubt intended to cloud Mr. Shultz's talks with the Jordanian and Egyptian leaders and to deprive them of any conceivable chance to move the peace process forward. But it is also significant, and doubly harmful, that the Israelis wished it known and stressed that all four settlements are to be built in areas of the West Bank which Shimon Peres' Labour Party "considers vital Israeli security and would like to retain in a peace settlement" with the Arabs.

This is going to be the crunch for Mr. Shultz. If the U.S. government, with its billions of dollars in aid to Israel, with the endless transfer of its best weapons and technology and with its "eternal support," cannot bring about a settlement freeze (which, more than any other action, could create the confidence needed for wider participation in peace talks, as President Reagan put it in his address of Sept. 1, 1982) how do we expect that direct negotiations, or any other Arab gesture for that matter, can do it? And assuming that combined pressure by the Arabs and the U.S., coupled with the force of negotiations, could in the end bring about a settlement freeze, what guarantee — indeed chance — is there that the Israelis will withdraw from the occupied territories and agree to grant the Palestinian people their right to self-determination?

It is not a question of taking chances for peace, we say to Mr. Shultz. Jordan and the PLO are clearly committed to a durable and just peace with Israel, and the Feb. 11 accord proves this commitment beyond any doubt. Our question is whether Israel is interested and ready to make the necessary compromises. And it certainly looks Israel is not.

Where is America's fair play in all of this? Where are her ideals and principles? If Israel is well represented and well lobbied for in Washington, does it mean that the U.S. government and Congress will always remain intellectually hostage to the will of the Israelis?

The secretary of state has done the right thing in telling a news conference in Lisbon on Thursday that a Palestinian presence was necessary to the success of any peace talks on the Middle East. But it really takes more than a Palestinian presence to achieve a lasting settlement. The key to success lies in full and legitimate Palestinian participation in the search for peace and only in the context of addressing the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination.

The U.S. cannot afford to overlook the sincere and tireless efforts His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have made to reach the Feb. 11 accord as America's involvement in the search for peace in the Middle East, in the words of President Reagan himself, "is not a matter of preference, but a moral imperative." We hope Mr. Shultz will also work to take the Jordan-PLO agreement forward and build on it to achieve a just and honourable peace in this area.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Constructive Chinese stand

WE APPRECIATE China's warm welcome to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which visited Peking to canvass support for a just settlement of the Middle East problem. China's support for the just Arab cause is a contribution to the establishment of world peace and is in line with the stands of many world nations that condemn Israel's aggression and call for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Chinese position should be appreciated by the United States because cooperation between members of the international community is essential for maintaining world peace. Although the U.S. maintains strong relations with Israel, it should take into consideration the views of other world powers which call for a just and durable peace. The Soviet Union, like China, supports the convening of an international conference on the Middle East as advocated by the Jordanian-Palestinian stand because these two major world powers want to end tension in our region and help the Palestinians regain their usurped rights.

The support of the Soviet Union and China along with other nations for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and for the international conference is encouraging, but the Arabs themselves should live up to the occasion and work together if their views are to be respected by the whole international community.

Sawt Al Shaab: Anything new Mr. Shultz?

DESPITE THE belief of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of Feb. 11 constitutes a new positive development, he embarked on his present tour of the Middle East with the same, unchanging stand about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Perhaps the American secretary will discuss the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks with the U.S. administration, but the result for the man in the street is the same whether Washington accepts a PLO member or a joint delegation or individual Palestinians as long as Washington is not ready to listen to Palestinian people's demands and legitimate rights.

The Palestinians, regardless of who represents them in the talks, insist on their rights and demand an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Therefore, any genuine action by the U.S. administration can be reflected in its power to influence the intransigent Israeli position, and to convince the Israelis to adopt a more realistic attitude if they want a lasting peace with their Arab neighbours. In Cairo, Shultz is expected to raise the issue of cool relations between Egypt and the U.S., but he should realise that this situation was brought about by the American administration who has failed to bring about a change in the Middle East situation and to help establish peace.

To date, all attempts to solve the issue have failed due to the U.S.-Israeli stands. Let us hope that Shultz's tour will help pave the way for a more balanced American policy that could lead to a solution.

LETTERS

Incomplete marriages included?

To the Editor:

IN REFERENCE to "one in four Jordanian marriages ends in a divorce court" (Jordan Times, Sunday, May 5, 1985) certainly makes shocking reading as pointed out by Josephine Zanarini in the introduction to her summary of Dr. Barhoun's recent findings regarding divorce.

It would be interesting however to ascertain whether these statistics included or excluded those couples whose marriage breaks up before it has ever really started i.e. before they have ever lined together as man and wife. The marriage contract (khub al kitab) in Jordan after symbolises only the start of a relationship albeit with intent to marry, and perhaps in this sense it could be considered more as a parallel to engagement in the West. Legally, however, I understand such a contract can only be ended by "divorce" despite the fact that the couple may never have lived together.

I feel sure Dr. Barhoun must have drawn a distinction between these two categories of "divorce". Socially, emotionally and also financially, the circumstances are obviously very different. Analysing the statistics so may have been difficult depending on the way the data was gathered. If that were the case, then perhaps the length of time between the signing of the marriage contract and the "divorce" might aid us in understanding this further.

I and other readers would welcome clarification of this.

Mrs. Wendy Bataineh,
P.O. Box 921244,
Amman.

مكتبة الأمل

Mayors' peace pipes break down Cyprus barriers

By Katherine McElroy
Reuter

NICOSIA — Two determined Cypriot mayors have broken through political barriers, barbed wire and sandbags to link the Greek and Turkish sides of Nicosia for the first time since the city was divided in 1974.

There may be no immediate prospect of Turkish or Greek Cypriots freely crossing the "green line" that splits the city. But, thanks to the mayors' persistence, the city's sewage, at least, now crosses the line.

The pipes that snake across the green line are a prosaic monument to the efforts of Greek-Cypriot Mayor Lellos Demetriades and his counterpart on the Turkish-Cypriot side, Mustafa Aekinci, to sidestep the political barriers.

Some said it was only a pipe dream when they first discussed restarting a dormant sewage project in 1980. But with much of the system now functioning, it is one pipe dream that is coming true.

Workers from both communities are only 18 months away from linking the entire city sewage network to a sewage-treatment plant in north Nicosia — the Turkish-Cypriot sector.

"What is good about what the mayors have done is that they've been solving problems where everyone else is getting stuck," said Roger Guarda, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP acts as unofficial mediator, with assistance from U.N. peacekeeping troops, when snags arise over aspects of construction

of the sewage system, which crosses Nicosia's heavily-militarised "green line" at several points.

The plan was first drawn up before Turkish troops occupied northern Cyprus in 1974 in the wake of a coup organised by the then military junta in Greece.

Nicosia is now divided between Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sectors, with U.N. troops in between.

Construction workers have had to lay the sewage pipes between war-scarred buildings and sandbagged bunkers as wary troops from the opposing Greek and Turkish sides watched.

led summit talks in January between the leaders of the two communities.

Mr. Aekinci said it had become more pessimistic after the talks, under U.N. auspices, collapsed in New York.

But he added: "I have often said that there won't be any solution to the Cyprus problem made thousands of miles away. The real solution is right here, on the ground, doing what we (the mayors) are doing now."

The mayors say their cooperation will not be affected by latest political developments, but Mr. Demetriades said the climate at present was not conducive to expanding this cooperation into other fields.

"We are trying to keep some bridges open, which will be very

useful when the politicians responsible for a solution find one," he said.

Mr. Guarda said there were other areas for cooperation between the two sides, such as health and environmental management.

"But for the moment it all centres on the Nicosia municipalities as there are not enough willing people like the mayors," he added.

"The projects have been entirely due to the mayors ... but they've had to fight for them and stick their necks out," Mr. Guarda said.

The site for the sewage treatment plant, originally in a Greek-Cypriot area, came under Turkish-Cypriot control after the Turkish invasion. The joint sewer project was born from this readjustment, Mr. Guarda said.

Both sides are to some extent interdependent for water and electricity supplies. Fears have been expressed that one side could possibly cut the other off.

But it seems unlikely the treatment plant would be held hostage if relations between the two sides deteriorated.

The whole sewer system is based on gravity. Should power to the plant be switched off, sewage would continue to flow down to the site, turning the mayors' "pipe dream" into a malodorous nightmare for the whole city.

Bahrain plans \$175m holiday project to fill recreation gap

By Mary Frings

THE TOURIST attractions of Bahrain can be seen in a single day — perhaps two if the visitor is interested in archaeology.

The hotels, swimming pools and a growing number of parks and playgrounds, although sufficient to entertain businessmen and weekenders, have rarely satisfied holidaymakers staying longer.

Even the abundance of sunshine and sand has failed to detain visitors for long because none of the big hotels — the Hilton, the Sheraton, the Regency International and the THF Diplomat — can offer their guests a beach to relax on.

The Holiday Inn did once have its own patch of foreshore but it was never ideally situated, separated as it was from the hotel by a six-lane highway.

Bahrain hopes a planned west

coast resort will change all that. "We want people from the Gulf to come here and have a good time. We want to create a family atmosphere," says Tariq Al-Moayed, the information minister.

The \$175m project, which will turn a 2½-mile strip of coastline at Zallaq into a luxury hotel and beach complex, should go some way to satisfying the needs of Gulf tourists.

It has also been given added significance by the likely completion this year of the Saudi-Bahrain causeway.

Dutch contractors Ballast Nedam are due to hand over the causeway in December. The work is on schedule but the opening is likely to be delayed by the failure to award link-road contracts. So it could be the end of next year before cars start pouring across.

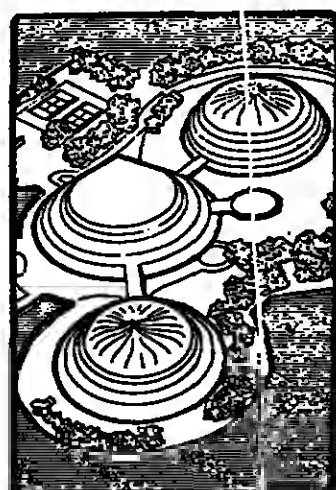
By then, the Zallaq project will

be under construction and visitors will have something new to look forward to.

The Bahrain Central Municipal Council has granted exclusive rights to form a development company to a local consortium and has said the site for the project will be leased to the developers for 25 years.

The consortium comprises Unitraco WLL and Transic Gulf WLL — both members of the Unitaq Group in which the ruling Al Khalifa family has an important interest — together with Projects SA which is owned by another branch of the family.

The resort complex was designed by project managers Alistair McCowan and Partners, a locally incorporated group of consulting engineers. The group, which completed a feasibility study last year, is a division of Alison and Hutchinson and Partners Inter-



International of Edinburgh, Scotland. A significant part of the estimated \$175m cost of the project is to be financed from equity, and local and overseas investors will

be invited to participate. A prospectus is being prepared by a West German investment consultant, Dr. Wolfgang Fahrkamp.

Interest has already been shown by investors in Saudi Arabia and other countries, including Britain. Tarmac Overseas, the U.K. construction company, is playing a major role in the project.

In the 1970s Tarmac unsuccessfully launched the MOD-L industrialised housing system in Bahrain in joint venture with A A Nass, a local contractor. Now the partnership is being revived and Tarmac-Nass will act as managing and general contractor for construction of the Zallaq project. It will also take a substantial equity share in the development company.

Construction of the Zallaq complex is expected to start early next year and to take three years

to complete.

The present design plans, which may be modified by financial and practical considerations, include a luxury hotel complex on a man-made island, a variety of beach villas and chalets, a large marina with condominiums, catering and boat maintenance facilities, and air-conditioned monorail links between sections of the complex.

The most popular attraction is likely to be what the promoters describe as a "theme park" — not a Disneyland, which is intrinsically American, but a funfair and amusement park.

Although the promoters of the Zallaq project clearly hope it will figure on world tour operators' programmes, the cost of air travel to the Gulf and a fairly restrictive immigration policy make it more likely that customers will come from the surrounding states.

— Financial Times news feature.

Dreams of bridging the Baltic may soon come true

By Michael Duggan
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — A century-old dream of bridging the Baltic Sea to link the whole of Scandinavia with the European mainland is nearer fulfilment after a new proposal from the Danish government.

Motorists heading south from Norway, Sweden or Finland must use ferry boats at present to leave the Scandinavian Peninsula, and a popular route is over the two-mile sound separating Sweden from Denmark.

The problem is that travellers then find themselves on the Dan-

ish island of Zealand, site of the capital Copenhagen, and those heading for Germany or Jutland must board ferries again.

Now the Danish government, with backing from the opposition Social Democrats, has put forward plans to build a fixed link across the 10-mile stretch of water dividing east and west Denmark, known to Danes as the Great Belt.

This opens the way for agreement between Denmark and Sweden on a similar link over the sound and both governments aim to finalise proposals by the end of June.

Danish Traffic Minister Arne Melchior said in a report to par-

liament (the Folketing) that a road and rail bridge over the great belt could be completed by 1993 at a cost of about \$830 million.

Sweden and Denmark will probably then build a rail tunnel between Helsingborg and Elsinore, Mr. Melchior told Reuters. "This tunnel will be ready about 1995, and I hope that within five years after that we will be able to open a bridge for cars from Copenhagen to Malmö."

"We are in big need of fixed links to the Scandinavian Peninsula: The Swedes are demanding it very, very hard. So is the city of Copenhagen," Mr. Melchior said. "We are a link between

Scandinavia and the European continent. The best we can do is not to deny this role but to accept it and play it fully."

The first proposal for a crossing over the Great Belt came in the mid-19th century from a Danish minister of war, enthused by plans for a channel tunnel between Britain and France.

But it was not until 1973 that the Danish Parliament voted to bridge the belt. In the same year Denmark and Sweden signed an agreement to link the two countries and consider building an airport on the midway island of Saltholm.

The 1970s oil crisis led to fears over energy supplies however, and in 1978 the Danish government decided a natural gas network was a more urgent economic priority and postponed the bridge plans.

The new airport was abandoned in favour of extending the existing main airport in Copenhagen.

Denmark's minority government will now negotiate through the summer with opposition parties on what form the belt crossing should take. Government officials said a tunnel for car trains in the east with a road and rail bridge in the west from a central island was a strong possibility.

A decisive factor could be the effect of any bridge on fish. Salt water from the North Sea sweeps through the great belt into the eastern Baltic. Environmentalists have said bridge embankments might impede this flow.

If true, this could lower the level of salinity in the Gulf of Bothnia between Sweden and Finland and reduce the outermost survival limits for cod fish there.

Research into salt levels commissioned by the government however led to the conclusion that a bridge would "change the conditions less than the natural variations in this century".

UNEP world soil plan seeks to stem creeping erosion

ACROSS THE Sabel the leafy branches of a few remaining trees are cut to provide fodder for camels, goats and donkeys. In Brazil, chain saws cut through the massive trunks of forest trees — for timber and to clear land for planting. In East Africa, savannah trees are cut down, left to dry and used for firewood or charcoal.

Around the world, the story is repeated — vegetation is cut for fodder, for timber and fuel or to clear land for cultivation. Rates of vegetation removal are escalating as populations, particularly in the tropics, increase. When exposed, soils quickly lose fertility or are lost through erosion.

Soil is a finite resource. A thin, fragile layer over the surface of the land, it is extremely vulnerable to over-use and mismanagement. All terrestrial ecosystems have their origins in soil, and it is essential for the growth of plants which provide food, fibre, fuel, timber and oxygen.

Most people who contribute to soil loss do so out of ignorance. Peasant farmers denude hillsides of their soil-protecting vegetation. When governments allow commercial exploiters to cut down forest trees, soil loss follows vegetation loss.

Exposed soil, without plant cover and the tangle of roots to anchor and bind it, can be rapidly eroded. Wind lifts particles of soil

and carries them away, particularly in dry areas. Rain water, especially torrential tropical downpours, washes away soil particles, and pours its precious load into streams and rivers. The soil is carried far from its place of origin and much is finally deposited in the sea where it causes problems for marine ecosystems.

Huge quantities drain into the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico. Almost all the seas in tropical areas are developing problems from soil.

1,600 million metric tons of sediment are calculated to be carried away each year by the Yellow River alone, with other major river systems transporting correspondingly high loads.

To introduce a feeling of responsibility both national and individual — towards the world's soils, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has devised its World Soils Policy (WSP), and a plan of action to implement it.

The plan is divided into five major programmes. The first assists countries to formulate their national soil policies. The second helps in the implementation of the policies through missions, field projects, seminars, technical publications and training programmes to produce technical cadres to take responsibility for soil management. The third programme

enhances international awareness — at all levels — of the problems of land degradation, and stresses the importance of conservation issues. The fourth develops technical and scientific knowledge necessary to promote the rational use of soil. The fifth programme involves collecting and disseminating data on the world's soil resources, their use and management requirements.

UNEP is now working to implement the 12 major projects that comprise the World Soils Policy.

One project concentrates on protecting the watersheds of rivers threatened by bad land management. In Zambia, for example, one million hectares of a sub-watershed of the upper Zambezi are already receiving improved management. In Colombia, watersheds of the Magdalena River in the High Andes are soon to be more rationally managed. Similar projects are scheduled for Indonesia and Jamaica.

The watershed project aims to provide productive, sustainable systems of agriculture, to carry out soil surveys, land evaluation and related studies, and to train local personnel in the techniques of environmentally sound watershed management.

Other projects relate to initiating strategies for soil management. One, which aims to improve farming methods in fragile

mountain ecosystems, concentrates on the developing world. In the Himalayas, Ethiopia and other mountain areas pressure on land is intense with populations of subsistence farmers moving higher and higher up mountainsides. Removal of vegetation and poor farming methods on steep slopes rapidly cause erosion, particularly in areas of heavy rainfall.

To increase soil productivity by increasing soil fertility is the aim of the biological nitrogen fixation

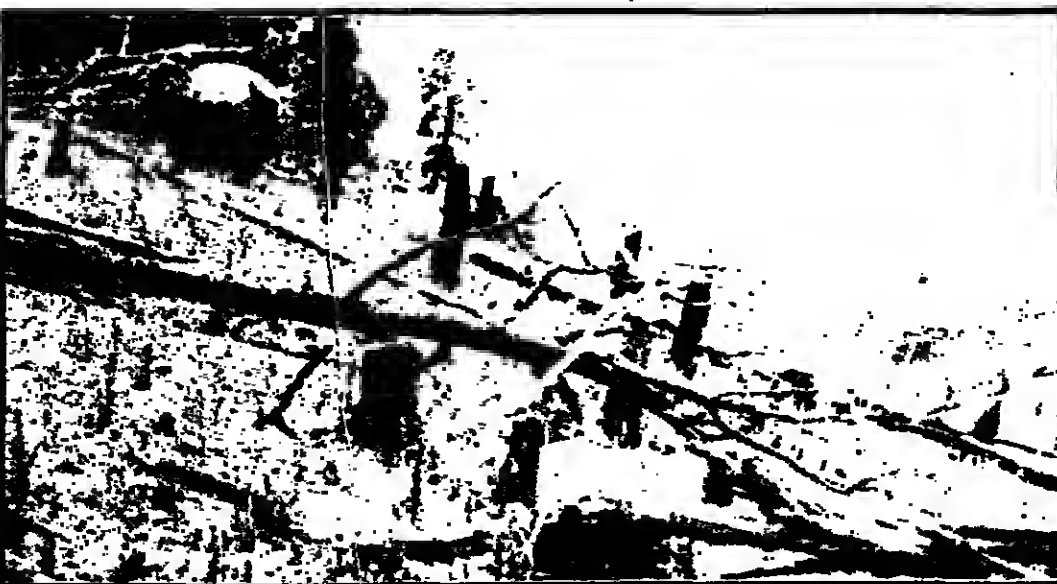
project. The level of soil nitrogen can be raised using nitrogen-fixing bacteria in leguminous plants — an environmentally safe method, which avoids adding synthetic chemicals to the soil.

The acceleration of erosion and the leaching of valuable mineral nutrients by tropical rainstorms from the basis of another project to be investigated at different sites in Africa, South America and South-east Asia.

Other projects include the as-

essment of land potentially suitable for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, ranching and forestry; the planning of environmentally sound land development projects; and evaluation studies of land resources for future populations.

Global projects involve the setting up of regional institutes for soils, water, forest conservation and management, and the provision of national soil policy advisory services — UNEP News.



Population pressures on traditional forest areas are causing irreparable erosion as in N. Thailand

U.S. awakes from its Vietnam amnesia

American TV viewers have been overwhelmed by an orgy of reminiscence of the most traumatic event in U.S. history since the Civil War — the devastating defeat in Vietnam. One question asked now is: Did America "win" the war but "lose" the peace? Reginald Dale reports.

WASHINGTON — The screens that once brought war to the American livingroom are now showing the bitter-sweet fruits of a decade of peace. Americans could go to bed recently with ABC TV's Nightline news magazine and wake up to NBC's breakfast-time Today show, both transmitted direct from Ho Chi Minh City, which ceased to be called Saigon 10 years ago.

For the past month or so, television viewers and newspaper readers have been overwhelmed by an orgy of reminiscence, post-mortems and predominantly sober soul searching over what is universally regarded as the most traumatic event in American history since the Civil War — the devastating defeat in Vietnam.

For most of the past 10 years, the majority of Americans turned their backs on the harrowing struggle that President Ronald Reagan calls a "noble cause" in a kind of deliberate, collective amnesia. They simply did not want to know any more about the war or those who fought in it.

Many still feel that way, but the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon — the final, bitter symbol of America's abandonment of the South Vietnamese friends — is being treated by the media as a moment to break taboos, to re-examine what went on for the future.

Many of the questions posed have been among the unanswered "what ifs" of history. What if the Americans had adopted a different military strategy, assuming, as many do not, that they had one in the first case? Suppose they had concentrated on sealing off reinforcements from the North, allowing the South Vietnamese to fight the Vietcong on their own territory? What if President Lyndon Johnson had told the whole truth about the war from the beginning?

Retired Gen. William Westmoreland, the controversial army commander in Vietnam, told a national TV audience that an acceptable peace could have been negotiated in 1968 if the U.S. had followed up on its victory against the Vietcong's Tet offensive with massive air strikes. Tet, widely interpreted at the time as an American defeat, and one of the war's major political turning points, is now seen in retrospect as a major U.S. military victory.

Military analysts point out that Tet wiped out the cutting edge of the Vietcong, which took 40,000 casualties. The fact that it was taken as a defeat at the time is now usually laid at the door of the U.S. media.

Gen. Westmoreland believes that the main reason why the U.S. still lost the war was that it lacked "staying power". It is now more or less right to say openly that the U.S. "lost" though, as has been constantly recalled in the past few weeks, U.S. forces won every major engagement and were never defeated on the battlefield. But there are still sharply divided opinions over whether the U.S. could have "won" and what would have constituted victory.

Among Vietnam veterans in particular there is still a strong inclination to believe not only that the war was right but that it could have been won.

More than two-thirds of those who served in Vietnam told a Washington Post/ABC news poll that the U.S. could have prevented the Communist takeover by military means, and three-quarters said the U.S. should have "used more military force."

Fifty-seven per cent of the veterans (and a surprisingly high 41 per cent of the general public) thought that the cause for which 58,000 Americans died, and thousands more were hideously wounded, was "worthwhile". About two-thirds of all Americans, however, still believe that the war as a whole was a "mistake".

Most of the veterans interviewed recently, and especially those who fought in the early years, still refuse to believe that their buddies died in vain. The same goes for the countless friends

and relatives of those who were killed. Resentment at the politicians for "betraying" the military has not subsided.

A similar, if clearly self-serving, line is taken by former President Richard Nixon, in a book out last month (April) called "No More Vietnams," in which he argues that he "won the war", but that Congress lacked the will to honour its post-ceasefire commitments to South Vietnam and so "lost the peace."

But many of the analysis and historians who have pronounced their views tended to believe that the war could never have been "won" by any traditional measure — at least in the sense that South Vietnam could have been cleared of the enemy and then left to defend itself. Among many other mistakes, it is now almost unanimously admitted that Washington failed to understand the historical forces at work in Indochina and constantly underestimated the extraordinary determination of the North Vietnamese.

The experts have added to that the length of the eight-year war (unprecedented for Americans), the "limited" American military commitment, and the growing and deeply disturbing feeling that America was, for the first time in history, neither omnipotent nor on "the right side".

As one senior retired military man put it, the American psyche wants to strike with massive force at an enemy that is identifiably evil, annihilate it and immediately withdraw. Consensus vanishes, however, when it comes to the "lessons" for the use of U.S. power in future. Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. defence secretary, reflecting the view of the once-bitten-won't-shy military, takes the position that force must be used only as a last resort, that a vital American interest must be at stake, that the U.S. must be sure of winning, and that there must be "some reasonable support". This prescription has been attacked as tantamount to total isolationism.

At the State Department, George Shultz strongly disagrees. He argues that the "prudent" use of force must always be available as an arm of diplomacy and that there can be no such thing as guaranteed public support in advance. In the language of Vietnam, the military-minded Weinberger has become the dove, the diplomat Shultz the hawk. What they are talking about now, though, is Central America, and to a lesser extent the Middle East.

Recently Mr. Shultz turned the "Vietnam syndrome" on its head arguing that if the U.S. did not snuff out Nicaragua Communism, the Sandinistas would overrun Central America just as surely as Hanoi's forces have swept through South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (which some Americans now like to call "Vietnam's Vietnam").

While Vietnam was a unique U.S. experience, Americans cannot help but half hope that they will somehow be redeemed by others falling into the same trap.

Some things, however, are reasonably clear. The Vietnam-inspired 1973 War Powers Act marked the start of a political process which has given the U.S. Congress a much greater say in and restraint over presidential war making.

The readiness of Americans in general to accept casualties has declined so dramatically that an administration's ability to commit U.S. combat forces to any infantry war is in serious doubt.

On the other hand, the left-wing "anti-Americanism" of the Vietnam war protesters, which began to subside with the ending of draft in 1973, has been largely discredited, as the realities of post-war South-East Asia have sunk in. As the generations' wheel turns, America's Reaganite youth is now patriotic and almost 50 per cent of adults under 30 years of age do not even know that the U.S. fought alongside South Vietnam.

— Financial Times news feature.

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Wihdat kicks off league season with 1-0 win over Qadisiya

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al-Wihdat Social Youth Centre beat Al Qadisiya Club 1-0 (half time 1-0) in the first soccer match of the first week of the Jordanian Premier League Tournament held at Amman Stadium Saturday night and attended by about 10,000 spectators.

Ghassan Balawi took the free kick from the right side of Al Qadisiya box and sent it over towards Mutaz, Qadisiya's goalkeeper, who failed to decide the right time to meet the flying ball, and Mohammad Al Mashe Wihdat's midfielder "the savior" took this opportunity to score the only goal and secure his team the first two points in the League tournament.

Al Qadisiya missed three chances to score, first in the fifth minute when Hassan Jad faced

Basem Taem Wihdat's goalkeeper alone and failed to score. The second chance was in the 44th minute when Jad himself failed to score after facing along the mouth of Al Wihdat goal.

The third chance came in the 63rd minute in front of Wihdat's goal when one of the defenders saved the net and sent the ball out.

In the second half Wihdat was better organized and attacked

from the left side of Qadisiya goal, but most of the players' shots failed to find their way into Qadisiya's goal post.

Isam Nofal of Wihdat missed the chance to score the second goal in the 75th minute when Ghassan Jum'a passed the ball to him inside Qadisiya box, again Nofal failed to score in the final minutes to support his team's single goal.



Al Mashe Al Wihdat's midfielder "in dark shirt" jumps to head the ball before Hantash Al Qadisiya defender reach it. (Photo by Majed Kamal).

McEnroe beats Panatta, prepares for Sundstrom

NEW YORK (R) — John McEnroe won a dramatic three-set duel with Italy's Claudio Panatta Saturday to earn a chance to settle accounts with Sweden's Henrik Sundstrom in the semi-finals of the \$615,000 Tournament of Champions at Forest Hills.

Panatta took the world number one to a tie-breaker in the third set before falling 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5). The fourth-seeded Sundstrom, who beat McEnroe in their only meeting, defeated ninth-seeded American Terry Moor 6-1, 6-2.

In the other semi-final, second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia will meet third-seeded American Krickstein for the first time.

Lendl, the 1982 champion here, rallied from a 2-3 deficit in the first set and 1-3 in the second to beat American Rookie Lawsoo Duocan 6-3, 6-3.

The 17-year-old Krickstein beat seventh-seeded American Brad Gilbert 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

McEnroe, seeking his third straight Tournament of Champions title, had an unexpectedly difficult time with the 25-year-old Panatta, ranked 81st in the world.

In a two-hour and 43 minute thriller, McEnroe started out slowly, losing on service twice in the first set to go down 3-6 before recovering his touch to take the second set, with the expectation of an easy third set.

McEnroe said: "I figured that I'd win the third set 6-2. But he played well, the best I've ever seen, and started running down my shots."

Panatta, who earned a berth here with a victory a month ago in Bari, Italy, said: "I got tired in the second set but I started to fight back in the third."

Panatta survived four break points in the fourth game of the third set and fought through three deuces in the 12th to force the tie-breaker as both players held serve throughout.

West German Fichtel plays Schalke club sweeper at 40

BONN (R) — Klaus Fichtel admits that at 40 he no longer has the stamina needed for 90 minutes of soccer in the highly competitive West German First Division — but his club disagrees.

Friday night his Schalke Club sent him out as sweeper against Waldhof Mannheim in a match which marked his 521st league appearance — a new Bundesliga record — and they won 4-0.

Though it is not so uncommon for goalkeepers to continue taking the field past their 40th birthday, for outfielders such as Fichtel it is as rare as snow in May.

Fichtel decided to bow out gracefully last year at Werder Bremen where Austrian international Bruno Pezzey was blocking his hopes of overtaking former Eintracht Frankfurt player Willi Neuberger's league record.

He joined his old club Schalke as assistant trainer and found himself back in the first team when an injury crisis hit the Gelsenkirchen Club.

Fichtel, capped 23 times for his country back in his hey-day in the late 60s and early 70s, had to stand in for injured sweeper Bernhard Dietz, a springy 37-year-old, at the heart of the defence.

Not that Schalke are by any means a team of old-timers. Fichtel plays alongside West Germany's great midfield talent Olaf Thon, who at just 19 is 21 years his junior.

Thon, already established in Franz Beckenbauer's West German national squad, was not even born when Fichtel made his Bundesliga debut.

The tall, blond Fichtel was rou-

only praised this week by Schalke trainer Diethelm Ferner. "Klaus Fichtel is reaping the fruits of his totally professional lifestyle," the trainer said.

"I always knew I could play him at any time in the first division," Ferner added.

Fichtel would already have passed the 600 appearances mark but for a suspension resulting from his involvement in the Bundesliga bribery scandal almost 15 years ago while with Schalke and for a season spent in the second division with Werder Bremen.

"I prefer to come on as substitute," Fichtel confesses. "I haven't really got the puff any more for 90 minutes. But I'm delighted with the record, especially as I have been able to prove I can still compete, even at my age."

National committees want more say in Olympics

ROME (R) — National Olympic committees deserve more say in the organisation of Olympic Games and a greater share in the financial benefits, the president of the European committees' association said Saturday.

"There must be greater co-ordination in respect of us," Franco Carraro of Italy told the general assembly of the association of the European national Olympic committees.

Carraro said the committees must strive for a greater decision-making role in the choice of sites for the games and the content and organisation of the programme.

"Thus the rights of athletes at the organisational level and the rights of the Olympic committees at the financial level could be safeguarded," he said.

committees.

Carraro said the committees must strive for a greater decision-making role in the choice of sites for the games and the content and organisation of the programme.

"Thus the rights of athletes at the organisational level and the rights of the Olympic committees at the financial level could be safeguarded," he said.

Manchester up to First Division

LONDON (R) — Manchester City's two-year banishment from the forefront of English soccer came to an end Saturday when they clinched promotion to the first division.

A crowd of over 40,000 watched City, traditionally one of the most glamorous clubs in England, end their second division exile with a crushing 5-1 home win over Charlton to finish third in the league behind champions Oxford and Birmingham.

With Portsmouth, Blackburn and Leeds all poised to make the

most of any slip, City, who had taken just one point from their previous two games, finally put the issue beyond doubt with two goals within the first 15 minutes.

Both were set up by their exciting teenage discovery Paul Simpson, who only played because six first-team players were either suspended or injured.

In view of City's tentative displays of late, they desperately needed an early goal to settle their nerves and Simpson provided the perfect tonic in the sixth minute when he carved open the Charlton

defence to leave Welsh international David Phillips a simple tap-in from close range.

Nine minutes later Simpson was again the architect with an exquisite cross which defender Andy May headed home with ease as the celebrations began on the terraces.

As Maine Road became a cauldron of noise in the second half, City proceeded to tear apart the Charlton defence at will and former Glasgow Celtic striker Jim Melrose added the third 11 minutes after the interval.

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(a) FURNISHED: Two-bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

(b) One bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

(c) Studio of one bedroom, kitchenette and bathroom.

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Take this opportunity to invite the people of Amman to an Open-Day Thursday 16th May held at the Centre 7th circle.

Come and discover for yourself how our centre aims to help the disabled child of today.

Further enquiries Phone 017596/877599

THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Wish to express its appreciation and grateful thanks to the management and employees of the Haya Arts Centre for their splendid organization of the Friday May 10 for the Open-Day Fund raising day. It was truly a day to remember. A special thanks is extended to all who participated to make the day a success.

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(a) Three bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen and two bathrooms.

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NOTICE

Indian Cultural Evening will now be held on Friday, the 17th May (and not on 16th) at Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Sports City. For details, contact:

Mr. Sai Gopal Tel. 624101/102
Indian Embassy Tel. 637262; 622098.

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Banker urges caution in evaluating data

LONDON (R) — The flood of instant economic news now available to world financial markets should be weighed more carefully to avoid hasty reactions that sometimes unsettle foreign exchanges.

West German central bank (Bundesbank) president Mr. Karl Otto Poehl said Friday.

In a speech to the Reuters annual luncheon, Mr. Poehl said some of the information was highly provisional and of only limited value as a pointer to economic trends.

Yet sometimes such data led to wide swings in exchange rates and made it more difficult for authorities to formulate policy. He called on markets to sift the information more carefully.

Mr. Poehl said that the rapid growth of news distribution was having a substantial impact on the financial world, with rep-

erussions comparable to those caused by the introduction of the steam engine or motor car.

Mr. Poehl added: "It cannot be denied that the flood of information may also unsettle the markets and thus make some policy decisions more difficult. The sharp exchange rate fluctuations are a proof of this."

The Bundesbank president said it was not the fault of the messengers but he cautioned: "The value of the information processed on the foreign exchange markets, which react extremely fast, is certainly often highly questionable."

Mr. Poehl noted that currencies now fluctuate far more sharply than had ever been dreamt of under the old Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates. Erratic dollar swings unleashed

by recently published data on U.S. economic growth in the first quarter of this year — a downward revision to an annual rate of only 1.3 per cent — clearly showed that markets failed to appreciate the highly provisional nature of the figures, he said.

The weaker than expected figure for Gross National Product (GNP) triggered a sharp dollar decline in chaotic market conditions. But Mr. Poehl said GNP data are constantly being revised from a first "flash forecast," which gives only a preliminary estimate, to final data and that the differences can often be large.

"It is not surprising that new professions have grown up whose purpose in life is to gather such data. I am thinking for instance of the Fed (U.S. Federal Reserve Board) watchers who have been



Karl Otto Poehl joined recently by growth watchers as well," he said.

Oil price rebounds on free market

ROTTERDAM (R) — The price of oil on the free European spot market rose by 25 cents a barrel Friday, continuing Thursday's rebound, as traders moved to fulfil obligations and anticipate a revival in demand.

North Sea Brent, the most actively traded grade, was reported to have traded at \$26.60 a barrel — 80 cents higher than on Wednesday — though in very thin dealings.

Traders said sellers of some grades, particularly Libyan, were refusing to sell at low prices. But plenty of oil is available this month and still waiting for buyers.

Over supply has been sapping prices on world oil markets, and earlier last week it seemed they might be heading towards January levels of \$25.50 a barrel, the lowest since the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Traders said more Egyptian oil was appearing on the free market, while Libyan sellers had withdrawn almost completely.

Companies producing Libyan oil responded to the fall in prices of about \$1 over the past month by cutting back on production.

But they said the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) was putting pressure on the companies that produce and lift a large proportion of Egyptian oil to increase their share of the market. As a result Egyptian oil had sold at \$2 less than a month ago, traders said.

A cargo of Egypt's benchmark Suez blend for loading late this month traded on Wednesday at \$24.95 a barrel.

U.S. businessmen forecast sluggish economic growth

HOT SPRINGS, Virginia (AP) — The U.S. economy, battered by foreign competition and high federal budget deficits, is entering a period of sluggish growth, the country's top business leaders said Friday.

While the business executives did not forecast a new recession this year or next, they expressed misgivings about the longevity of the current recovery.

The forecast was made at the spring meeting of the Business Council, comprised of 200 executives from the country's largest corporations.

The forecast by the business leaders was markedly more pessimistic than those of the Reagan administration.

The executives blamed the country's weakening economy on what they termed the interrelated problems of huge government budget deficits and soaring trade deficits.

"At no other time has a subject so dominated the concerns of the business community as the related questions of the budget deficit, the trade deficit and the strength of the dollar," said Mr. Edmund T. Pratt Jr., chairman of Pfizer Inc., the giant pharmaceutical firm.

The annual rate of economic growth during the first three months of this year slumped to 1.3 per cent, the slowest since the end of the 1981-82 recession.

The business forecast predicted that the economy this year would grow 3.1 per cent, far below the 6.8 per cent pace turned in during 1984. For 1986, the executives predicted an even more slower growth rate of 2.2 per cent.

By contrast, the Reagan administration is predicting growth this year of 3.9 per cent and four per cent for 1986.

The business forecast said the expected sluggish economic growth would mean little improvement in the unemployment rate, which has been stuck at 7.3 per cent for the past three months.

The forecast said the rate could drop 0.7 per cent by the end of this year but would rise to 7.2 per cent by the end of 1986.

The executives saw continuing good news on the inflation front, predicting that consumer prices will rise 3.9 per cent this year, even better than last year's 4 per cent rate.

For 1986, the executives forecast inflation of 5 per cent.

The expected slowdown was blamed primarily on the beating the U.S. industrial sector took from foreign competition both in increased imports and in slumping export sales.

The trade problem has led to growing calls for protectionist measures in Congress, but the business executives said such an approach would be short-sighted, leading to retaliatory actions by other countries.

"The preferred solution to the trade deficit ... problems of the United States is a significant tightening of the federal budget," the business council said in a report.

The executives said large federal budget deficits drive up U.S. interest rates, attracting foreign capital to this country and thus driving up the exchange rate of the dollar.

A strong dollar worsens the trade deficit by making imports cheaper and U.S. products more expensive on overseas markets.

While the Reagan administration has in the past denied a link between budget deficits and a strong dollar, the business report said, "the root cause of the strong dollar and trade imbalance is high federal budget deficits."

The report said even with congressional approval of further spending cuts, deficits would hover around \$200 billion over the next two years.

While some forecasters have begun to warn that a recession is likely next year, the business group said they believed a downturn in the next 18 months was unlikely.

However, the report warned that the country's trading problems were seen as the major risk in sparking a new recession.

"We have to have an economic policy that recognizes that trade is much more important than it was 20 years ago," said Mr. Edward G. Jefferson, chairman of Dupont Chemical Co.

In an effort to seek solutions to the country's trade problems, the executives were devoting their two-day conference at this mountain resort to meetings with U.S. and foreign trade officials.

Ministers from the European Community, Canada, Mexico and Japan, including Mr. Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp., were participating in the closed-door sessions.

reached the Senate's \$295 billion package of U.S. government spending reductions, saying there was now a "mandate" to freeze benefits for retired people but adding he would not tolerate any further reductions in his defence buildup.

The \$965 billion spending plan for 1986 provides "more than 90 per cent of what we have asked for in the budget," Mr. Reagan told reporters in Portugal, a few hours after the Senate gave its approval on a tense, early morning vote of 50-49.

The opposition Democratic-controlled House of Representatives budget committee is expected to begin work on a deficit-reduction package of its own this week.

In all, the Senate blueprint would cut spending by \$56 billion next year by holding the rise in defence spending constant with inflation, imposing a one-year freeze on social security and other government pension benefits, eliminating 13 domestic programmes and slashing spending for numerous others.

Several other domestic programmes the president sought to kill were retained at reduced levels of funding.

The plan envisions cutting deficits in half over three years from what they otherwise would be — to \$171.4 billion in 1986 and \$104.3 billion in 1988 — without raising taxes.

Democrats, citing estimates by the non-partisan congressional budget office, disputed that forecast, and said the 1988 deficit would be closer to \$145 billion.

Technically, the budget only sets spending targets for the U.S. Congress to follow later in the year, and specific legislation is still needed to make the actual spending cuts.

But the vote provided powerful momentum to the drive to reduce deficits.

"I think a \$300 billion package is worth staying up all night for," Senate majority leader Mr. Robert Dole told Mr. Reagan in a trans-Atlantic telephone conversation after the 16-hour Senate session. Mr. Dole alleged earlier in the year to produce a package of cuts that would total \$50 billion or more for 1986.

The verdict was sealed when Vice President George Bush broke a 49-49 tie vote, but there was drama, as well, when Republican Senator Pete Wilson left his hospital bed and cast his vote from a wheelchair in the back of the Senate chamber. Mr. Wilson underwent surgery Wednesday for removal of a ruptured appendix.

Reuters expects good 1985 profit growth

LONDON (R) — Reuters, the international news and information organisation, expects another year of very good revenue and profit growth, chairman Sir Denis Hamilton told the annual meeting of Reuters Holdings Friday.

Total sales for 1985 so far have been very good, despite unfavourable economic conditions in some parts of the world, he said.

Currency factors had an adverse effect on profit in the opening months of the year but on present indications should produce a modest benefit in the year as a whole.

Reuters was beginning to see the first positive results from its heavy investment in North America during the last three years, but the company still had a long way to go in this very competitive but potentially very rich market, Sir Hamilton said.

"We are attacking it with tremendous strength," he said.

Reuters, with 127 offices in 78 countries, supplies a wide range of services both to business subscribers and to the news media. It became a public company last June when its shares were listed on the London stock exchange and in New York.

Commenting on the acquisition last month of Rich of Chicago, a supplier of communications systems for financial dealing rooms, Sir Hamilton said Reuters expected to derive substantial benefit in due course from Rich's products and its technical and marketing resources.

It was announced earlier last week that Sir Hamilton, 66, will be succeeded as chairman of Reuters on July 1 by Sir Christopher Hogg, 48, a Reuters director and also chairman of the Courtalds Textiles Group.

In 1984 Reuters pre-tax profit rose to £74.3 million (now \$91.4 million) from £55.3 million (now \$68 million) in the previous year. Revenue rose in 1984 to £313 million (\$385 million) from £242.6 million (\$298 million).

Turkey, Romania sign shipping, trade accord

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Romania signed a protocol Friday on new shipping links across the Black Sea and a boost in trade, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said.

A roll-on roll-off (Ro-Ro) link will start next Wednesday between the eastern Turkish port of Trabzon and Constanta in Romania, with further services planned.

The Turkish port of Samsun will be linked with Constanta by ferry from the second half of 1986 and work will be undertaken on Ro-Ro and ferry connections between Istanbul and Constanta, the agency said.

Telephone links will be made automatic and the banking trade account between the two countries increased from a maximum \$30 million to \$50 million.

The agreement, signed between Turkish minister of state Mr. Ahmet Karaevli and Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ioan Avram also calls for trade to be increased and the range of goods varied. A study will be made on the possibilities of boosting exchanges in energy and petroleum and mining products.

EC, Moroccan officials discuss trade relations

RABAT (R) — European Commission President Jacques Delors held talks Friday with Moroccan officials on the impact on the Moroccan economy of the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community (EC), the Moroccan News Agency MAP said.

Mr. Cheysson, commissioner for the European Community's relations with Mediterranean countries, had talks with Mr. Ezzeddine Guessous, minister in charge of relations with the Community, and several of his aides on the second day of his official visit to Morocco.

MAP said all aspects of cooperation with the Community were examined, including financial, commercial and economic matters and the transfer of technology.

Mr. Guessous told Mr. Cheysson that "Europe should rethink its relations with Morocco by giving it the place it deserves" while Mr. Cheysson explained the Community position regarding access for Moroccan products into the Common Market, the agency said.

Earlier the agency reported Mr. Guessous as saying Morocco wanted to negotiate a special deal with the Community to protect its interests after the Iberian countries join next year.

Morocco is worried about the adverse effect which Portuguese and Spanish membership of the Community could have on its foreign trade, because more than half its exports go to the 10-country trading bloc.

Swedish strike deteriorates

STOCKHOLM (R) — State employees, retreating against a civil servants' strike, Saturday imposed a nationwide lockout which will close nearly all Sweden's schools and more than 100 government agencies.

Prime Minister Olof Palme said: "This conflict will inflict significant damage on Sweden, but the consequences would be even greater if we granted big pay rises and gave up our struggle against inflation."

The civil service employers' board enforced the lockout after the civil servants' union TCO-S, engaged in Sweden's biggest-ever public sector conflict, rejected a mediators' offer of a 0.7 per cent pay rise.

The union is demanding a 3-1 per cent increase but the government says that would ruin efforts to cut inflation to three per cent this year from 8.2 per cent in 1984.

The lockout is a reply to selective strikes by 20,000 TCO-S members which began on May 2 and have closed commercial airports and stopped most foreign trade.

The lockout will start to bite on Monday.

British Telecom to acquire Mitel

LONDON (R) — British Telecom Friday announced an agreement to take over the Canadian company Mitel for £180 million (\$221 million), its first major acquisition since going private last year.

A company spokesman said the British telephone company would take a 51 per cent controlling interest in Mitel, which has a 25 per cent share of the world market in

computer-controlled telephone switchboards servicing up to 150 lines.

"It will add a major international dimension to our business in customer premises equipment," a company statement said.

Although Mitel directors support the agreement, it still requires regulatory clearances and the approval of Mitel shareholders.

Mitel is best known for micro-processor-controlled switchboards, which it sells to 80 countries.

Britain's Conservative government sold its remaining half-share in British Telecom to the public last year for £4 billion (\$4.9 billion) in the world's biggest stock market flotation.

Reagan formally embraces budget

Meanwhile, President Ronald Reagan on Friday formally embraced the budget.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, look into unique points of view and see what you can do to update your school of thought more in accord with modern thinking.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look to a friend who is an original thinker for the help you need to become more successful. Be clever in gaining a desired wish.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Plan how to gain more prestige where it is of greatest value to you, and later join with good friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Gain better philosophical understanding in the morning, and then you can be with friends for a delightful time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Do something charming for your mate in the morning, and then you can be with congenial and clever friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get in touch with fascinating individuals you want to be in your life. Be more willing to go along with their ideas and be happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Some special thought for a shut-in would be greatly appreciated. Then be with partners and enjoy their company.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Early plan amusements, and then get busy at duties ahead of you and complete them. Show your mate that you have a sense of humor.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use more enthusiasm with kin and take them out for amusement later in the day and be happier together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take time to study those new ideas you get before relaxing with your family. Take a little trip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You get a fine idea how to increase your abundance during the daytime, and later you can start the wheels rolling in right direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You get unusually fine ideas in the morning, so plan how to put them in operation quickly and get good results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are highly inspired how to gain your finest goals so do something about them and gain advice from an expert.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can easily understand what is happening in the world and will have many playmates because of a friendly nature. Give a comprehensive education to insure success, although upon reaching maturity your progeny will content to specialize in one thing and stick with it.

THE Daily Crossword

by Albert J. Klaus

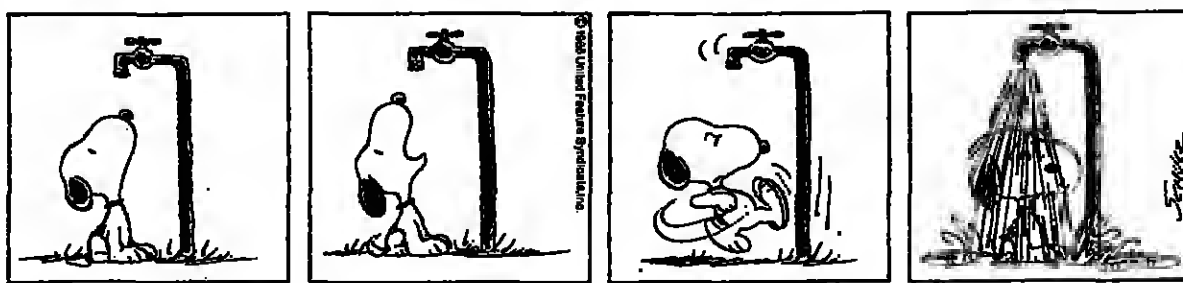
ACROSS

- Ring stone
- Tax player
- TIF
- Silly mud
- Graduated glass tube
- Principled
- Helm oak
- Large Eur. lake
- Only
- Roman historian
- A Gerstwin
- Ornate coin
- Meet the consequences
- Handy for reference
- Freight
- Farm building
- Some
- Certain Greek
- High priest
- Outdoor area
- abbr.
- Plastic insect
- Heat unit
- Saint
- Aged
- Poor school grades
- Hung. composer
- Cherubim
- Three IL
- Political
- "The Eve"
- Away from
- Beverage
- Subliminal
- Wood strip
- Stupid person
- Light song
- Interlune
- Farm equipment
- Lacquered
- metaphor
- S-shaped molding
- Weak wrong
- Fastener

DOWN

- Leave out
- Rice dish
- Swirl pain
- Dictionary
- Complete
- Cherubim
- Three IL
- Political
- "The Eve"
- Away from
- Beverage
- Subliminal
- Wood strip
- Stupid person
- Light song
- Interlune
- Farm equipment
- Lacquered
- metaphor
- S-shaped molding
- Weak wrong
- Fastener
- Lost
- Makes less
- briny
- Sowing machine
- Back
- Ornate
- syllable
- Edible bulb
- 51 Sp. composer
- 62 Eur. capital
- 63 Banner
- 64 Pace
- 65 Golf field
- 66 Comparative ending

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

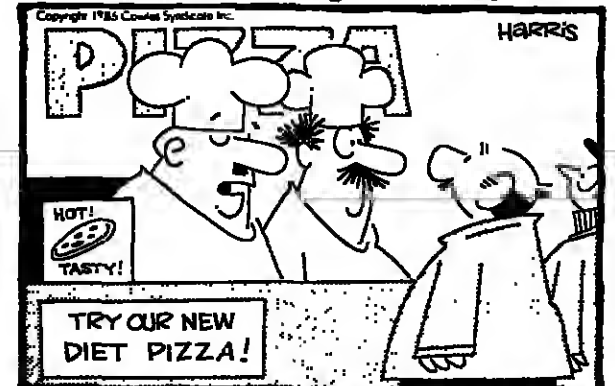


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"The diet pizza is the same, except Marty comes to your table and tells you how slim you look!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUNST

WYDDO

RIVEFY

TRYSO

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: RHYME BIRCH TREATY VERSUS

Answer: She has many a suitor but none do this—SUIT HER



WHAT PEOPLE WHO GROWL ALL DAY OFTEN FEEL AT NIGHT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

500 Sikhs detained after series of blasts that killed 73 Indians

NEW DELHI (AP) — More than 500 suspected Sikh extremists were detained for interrogation Saturday in connection with a series of bomb blasts that killed at least 73 people across northern India, authorities said.

Ten people died in three explosions here Saturday, bringing the death toll since Friday night to 40 in the Indian capital.

Eleven people died in explosions in three towns of neighbouring Haryana state, 22 died in Uttar Pradesh state, including 14 who perished in blasts that ripped through two trains. United News of India (UNI) quoted official reports as saying.

New Delhi's top police official said army troops were deployed in sensitive areas of the capital to deter an outbreak of sectarian violence between Hindus and Sikhs.

All exit points, train stations and the airport were sealed as authorities searched for the Sikh extremists suspected of planting explosives on crowded buses and in public places.

At least two dozen bomb explosions rocked parts of New Delhi and the neighbouring states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Friday night. Most of the bombs were concealed in transistor radios and were detonated by battery-operated timers, police and forensic experts said.

The bombings marked the deadliest single-day of attacks by Sikh extremists since they began their violent campaign for greater autonomy three years ago. It was the first time they have struck so mass-

Saturday morning. Officials said the 10 victims, including three children, were mostly slum dwellers who were handed "transistor bombs."

Friday's violence began with the assassination of a Hindu political leader in Punjab's Hoshiarpur. The slaying of Balbir Singh by two Sikh gunmen triggered violent Hindu protests in which two people were reported killed and about 35 shops burned.

Sikhs, who form about two per cent of India's population but constitute a slight majority in Punjab, have been demanding greater religious, political, territorial and economic powers in the northern state. The agitation has spawned a terrorist campaign for a separate Sikh nation.

The attacks come less than a month before the first anniversary of the Indian army assault on the Golden Temple in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the attack to drive out heavily-armed Sikh extremists holed up in the sacred shrine.

About 1,200 people were killed in the temple battle, which the government at the time claimed had "broken the back" of Sikh terrorism.

Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated on Oct. 31 by two of her Sikh security guards. The slaying sparked widespread anti-Sikh riots across northern India in which more than 2,700 people were killed, most of them Sikhs.

Since then, the Akali Dal leadership openly split in a power struggle between moderates and extremists. Joginder Singh, the 83-year-old father of slain extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, has proclaimed himself as the new leader of the party and appointed a nine-member council comprising mostly extremists.

Newspapers said the move has eclipsed party President Harbans Singh Longowal, a relatively moderate with whom the government has been seeking to reopen negotiations.

Pakistan reportedly can make 2 bombs a year

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Indian Ambassador to Islamabad Krishna D. Sharma said in interviews published in newspapers Saturday that Pakistan has the capability of making two atom bombs a year.

"Pakistan has five nuclear institutions, out of which only one is under international inspection and safeguards," Mr. Sharma was quoted as saying. "On the basis of the nuclear capability which Pak-

istan has acquired, it can produce two atom bombs each year," he said in interviews with reporters in Karachi. Mr. Sharma did not elaborate.

"I am saying so because it is better to put an end to something before the event actually takes place," he said of Pakistan's alleged bomb-making plans. "There is no use of making noises afterwards," Mr. Sharma was quoted as saying.

Thatcher urges calm as party revolt grows

PERTH, Scotland (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appealed to her ruling Conservative Party for calm and "cool heads" amid a growing revolt over her failure to tackle Britain's record unemployment.

After a day which saw unprecedented attacks on her from her own monetarist wing of the party, Mrs. Thatcher implored a conference of Scottish Conservatives to stay loyal to the policies inaugurated when she took office six years ago.

"It is a time for cool heads," she declared, "a time for keeping calmly on our chosen course, not shirking the problems but tackling them with humanity and determination."

Mrs. Thatcher added: "A fall in unemployment is what everyone wants and no more than 1... We're on the right lines."

But there was no hint of a relaxation of economic policies which have cut inflation but sent unemployment soaring to 3.3 mil-

lion, a record 13.5 per cent of the workforce.

"The only basis for expansion is an efficient industry and new businesses," she said.

But Conservative parliamentarians, feeling heavy pressure from their constituents, made clear to Mrs. Thatcher she must shift course to avoid disaster at the next election, due by 1988.

One member, David Knox, said in a speech: "The time is overdue for a change in direction."

Another, Patrick Cormack, assailed Mrs. Thatcher's "decaying dogma" and declared: "It is essential the government accepts the unemployment figures not as a way of life but as a challenge to be overcome."

Former Cabinet Ministers Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and David Howell have already joined Mrs. Thatcher's predecessor as Conservative leader, Edward Heath, in assailing the government's economic policies.

Moscow accuses U.S. of selective criticism

OTTAWA (R) — The Soviet Union has accused the United States of being too selective in its criticism of human rights violations. Western sources said at an international conference on the issue.

The East-West clash came at an Ottawa meeting of the 35 countries which were signatories in 1975 of the Helsinki Accords, a code of conduct for Europe that was viewed as a landmark for détente.

The conference was being held behind closed doors. The delegates agreed after a long procedural wrangle this week that they would end their meeting on June 17.

The media were barred from the daily discussions but Western sources, briefing reporters on the exchange at Friday's session, said the Soviet Union had criticised the United States for being very selective in its attacks.

Soviet delegate Vsevolod Sofinsky was quoted as criticising the United States for "tolerating apartheid in South Africa and supporting fascism in Chile, genocide in Guatemala, and El Salvador making war on its own people."

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At Some, Nigerian officials Friday cleared truckloads of returnees through to neighbouring Benin but many of the 200 vehicles that arrived in the morning had little chance of beating the deadline.

For the many trucks, buses and taxis still loading up with passengers and baggage in Lagos as the day wore on, the 80 kilometre journey out to the border was wasted.

Compared with 1983, when Nigeria expelled more than two million illegal immigrants in a huge, confused exodus, this expulsion has been relatively smooth.

Diplomatic sources said this was in part due to the much smaller numbers involved.

For many of the travellers, a prolonged stay in Nigeria as a result of the border closure would be likely to mean further hardship as many have already complained that they have run out of money and cannot buy food.

Press spokesman electrocuted, Argentine witness says

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine security forces executed a former presidential press spokesman by putting him on a wet, billiard table and connecting him to a live electric wire, a witness told the trial of nine former military leaders.

Carlos Hours, a former policeman, said he saw the execution of Edgardo Sajon, who had been press spokesman for former military President Alejandro Lanusse in the early 1970s, at a police school in Buenos Aires province.

"I have the order to execute you," army Col. Raul Munoz was said to have told Sajon during a conversation in September 1978, over a year after he had been kidnapped by security forces.

Sajon's body was never found and he is considered one of Argentina's thousands of missing people. His killers later undressed his body, stole his gold tooth fillings, put him in a nylon potato bag and buried him in a forest.

The testimony came at the end of the third week of testimony in the trial against nine former military junta members, charged with

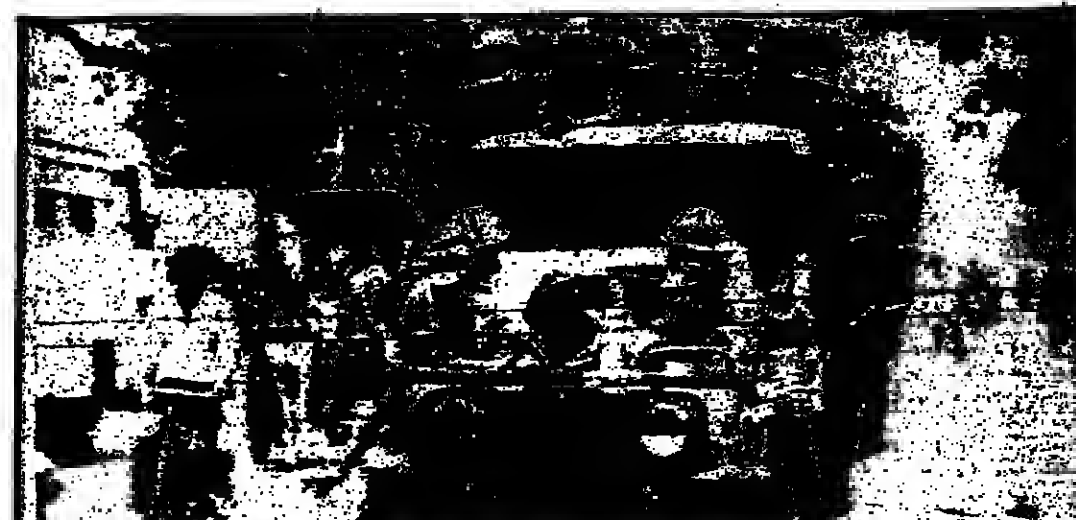
responsibility for widespread human rights violations under military rule from 1976 to 1983.

The accused include former military Presidents Roberto Viola, Jorge Videla and Leopoldo Galtieri.

Hours, who is now serving a one year term for bribery, was an officer in the Buenos Aires province police force until 1979. He said he was dismissed from the police force for denouncing officers for stealing from their victims, who frequently were tortured after being captured.

He said that the 1976 military coup all police precinct headquarters became clandestine detention centres and that police no longer used legal orders to detain people.

The former police officer also said he, Colonel Ramon Camps, the head of the Buenos Aires province police force and other policemen summarily executed an unarmed worker.



Army troops patrol the streets of north Delhi Saturday after Sikh extremists planted bombs in several parts of the Indian capital, resulting in the death of at least 73 people and injury of scores of others (AP wirephoto)

U.N. adopts Nicaraguan resolution after Washington vetoes key parts

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States has vetoed a Nicaraguan call in the U.N. Security Council for an end to the U.S. trade embargo on Nicaragua.

But the Council later passed a milder version of the resolution urging Washington and Managua to resume talks.

In a procedure seldom employed in the Council, each paragraph of the resolution was put to a separate vote, accounting for 17 rounds of voting. The United States used its veto three times but supported the final, milder version of the resolution, which was approved unanimously.

U.S. delegate Jose Sorzano said he asked for separate votes in order to demonstrate "the broad areas of agreement between the position of the U.S. and that of Nicaragua."

The United States, after casting out sections criticising the trade embargo, which President Reagan announced in Bonn last week, supported the final version of the resolution.

On the talks, the 15-nation Security Council unanimously called on the two countries to resume talks on improving relations. Washington abstained on that vote.

As relations between Washington and the Sandinist government in Nicaragua worsened, the United States earlier this year announced the suspension of the talks, which had been held in the Mexican resort of Manzanillo.

The Reagan administration, which has backed right-wing rebels fighting the Sandinists, has repeatedly accused Nicaragua of fomenting subversion in Central America and of moving into the Soviet camp.

Despite the rejection of the call for an end to the trade blockade, which went into effect this week, Nicaraguan delegate Javier Chamorro Mora hailed the final resolution as "a meaningful contribution to peace in Central America."

But he expressed regret that while voting for the resolution, Mr. Sorzano had abstained in the separate vote on the paragraph calling for a resumption of the Mexico talks.

The portion of the text vetoed by Mr. Sorzano declared that the embargo and "other coercive economic measures" were inconsistent with the principle of non-interference in states' internal affairs and represented a danger to regional stability.

His veto struck out a paragraph stating that the Council was seriously concerned about increased tensions in Central America, "recently aggravated by the trade embargo and other coercive economic measures decreed against the government of Nicaragua which endanger the stability of the region and undermine the efforts of the Contadora Group toward a political and negotiated solution."

Eleven of the 15 members, including France, Denmark and Australia voted for the U.S. economic sanctions to be lifted. Britain, Thailand, the current president, and Egypt abstained.

The Contadora Group, trying for more than two years to bring about a settlement to the Central American conflicts, consists of Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and Panama.

Britain joined Mr. Sorzano in abstaining on a paragraph calling on the governments of the United States and Nicaragua to resume the dialogue they had been holding in Manzanillo.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua announced austerity measures to combat a U.S. trade embargo against the war-torn country.

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police said they shot dead a 15-year-old black boy in overnight rioting as anti-apartheid groups planned a mass protest strike next week.

The boy and two men robbed a bus and set it alight in the troubled eastern Cape province Friday night, a police spokesman said Saturday. When police opened fire the youth was killed and the stolen money was found on his body, the spokesman said.

Police reported arson and rioting overnight at other eastern Cape townships, as well as in western and northern areas of the vast province and in townships around Johannesburg.

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"Vice President Sergio Ramirez told a press conference the Interior Trade Ministry was immediately taking over distribution of basic agricultural and industrial goods."

Nicaragua's farm-based economy has already been ravaged by more than three years of war against U.S.-backed guerrillas trying to topple the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Mr. Ramirez, who is acting as president while Daniel Ortega is touring Europe, said the measures also included the creation of an industry to build industrial machine parts which Nicaragua used to buy from the United States.

He added that steps would be taken to lower the price of the country's main exports — bananas, coffee, cotton, seafood and meat — to attract new markets.

Israel's ambassador to Central America has denied reports that his country provided arms to guerrillas fighting Nicaragua's leftist government.

Honduran press reports said Israel was the main arms supplier to the U.S.-backed guerrillas fighting to topple the Managua government.

"It is not true, we do not sell nor provide any arms to anti-Sandinist groups," Moshe Dayan, who is based in Guatemala and comes to Honduras regularly, told journalists Friday night.

"There are no Israeli military advisers in the anti-Sandinist forces — not even one," he added. "Israel sells no arms to revolutionary or counter-revolutionary of any Central American country."

Dayan did not reveal why he was in Tegucigalpa apart from saying he discussed poetry, art and music with Honduran Presidency Minister Ubodoro Ariaga Irujo.

South African police kill black youth

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Britain to open new Falklands airfield

PORT STANLEY (R) — A new Falkland Islands airfield being opened here Sunday will cement the link between the disputed colony and Britain, the British military commander said Saturday.

Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, a naval officer serving in the South Atlantic, will formally open the Mount Pleasant Airfield, a three kilometre-long runway surrounded by shops, a post office, and recreation and medical facilities.

Swiss probe cause of swimming pool tragedy

ZURICH (R) — Swiss experts are probing the collapse of a concrete ceiling into a swimming pool with the loss of 12 lives and one said the possibility Switzerland had other pools of similar construction could not be ruled out.

The ceiling, weighing about 160 tonnes, crashed down virtually in one piece on Thursday night, covering the pool in the small town of Uster like a lid.

Some of the 30 to 40 swimmers in the pool at the time drowned but others were crushed to death. Four of the dead were members of the Swiss youth swimming team. A mother and her two children were also killed.

An investigation is being carried out by experts from the Federal Institute for Material Control (EMPA) under the leadership of the Uster public prosecutor's off-

South Africa, said he expected about half a million workers to heed the call, which was also in protest at the presence of police and troops in black townships where months of unrest have claimed the lives of more than 150 people this year.

Black anger has been fuelled by the death of a second black man this week. Student leader Sipho Mutsi, 20, also died in hospital after being questioned by police, and lawyers for his family said a preliminary post mortem showed he had brain injuries.

Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange Friday ordered a police inquiry into Mutsi's death.

The decision to build the airfield and the mini-town on a desolate area of Bogland, 50 kilometres west of the capital Port Stanley, was condemned by Argentina as an act of aggression.

A state of hostility has existed between the two countries since the 1982 war when a British task force expelled Argentinian troops who had briefly occupied the islands.

Major-General Peter de la Billiere said in a statement that the

airfield would enable Britain to respond quickly and cheaply to any military threat to the islands.

"It will enable us to reinforce in a hurry and to maintain a minimum of troops in the shop window. It will cement the link between Britain and the Falklands," he said.

The 1,900 islanders hope the airfield will boost their economy by opening the islands to tourism and providing a staging post to the Antarctic.

Meier said he believed greater checks would be carried out on buildings as a result of the Uster tragedy.

The quick wits of swimming coach Philippe Walter helped some of the bathers to escape. He shouted at his swimmers to dive under water and three managed to scramble free near the diving area, where the only escape route lay.

Amongst them was Frenzi Nydegger, who has qualified to represent the Swiss girls' team in this year's European Swimming Championships in Sofia.

Meanwhile authorities in Lucerne Friday ordered the immediate closure of part of an old hospital, now used as a meeting place, because of a danger of collapse.

Column 8

Ruler of Sharjah receives doctorate

ABU DHABI (R) — The ruler of Sharjah in the northern United Arab Emirates has received a doctoral degree for Britain's Exeter University for a thesis on the early 19th Century history of the Gulf. Al Khaleej newspaper reported Saturday. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi spent three years preparing his thesis, "claims of piracy and the attempts on the East India Company to control the Gulf from 1779 to 1820," the paper said. Sheikh Sultan, 47, has been ruler of the small oil-producing emirate since 1972. Sharjah, with a population of 90,000, has a high percentage of university graduates.

U.N. braces for Stevie Wonder day

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Stevie Wonder will celebrate his 35th birthday at the United Nations on Monday and may play a few numbers in the General Assembly Hall, where he will receive a citation, officials have said. Alarmed by the prospect of a vast crowd of Wonder fans, a U.N. spokesman at first denied that the Oscar-winning composer would perform. Later, officials said Wonder's staff asked for a piano in case he wished to respond to the citation with a song or two. The U.N. Centre Against Apartheid invited Wonder to thank him for opposition to South Africa's race policies. He was also involved in "We Are the World", the best-selling record that is aiding African famine relief. Receiving an Oscar last month for his song "I Just Called to Say I Love You", Wonder said he accepted it in the name of Nelson Mandela, the black activist who has spent 23 years on a South African penal island.

Gin, golf keep Mr. Thatcher fit

LONDON (R) — Denis Thatcher, the British prime minister's self-effacing, much-mocked husband, celebrated his 70th birthday Friday. For once the cameras were trained on him as he posed with-in-arm with his wife Margaret under a magnolia tree in the garden of the official residence at 10 Downing Street. Impersonators, a stage show called "Anyone For Denis?" and imaginary letters in the satirical magazine Private Eye portray him less kindly as a golfing, tripping, crusty old reactionary. "I don't pretend I am anything but an honest-to-God right-winger," he once remarked. In a birthday interview with his journalist daughter Carol, he said he liked to tell people that gin — in moderation — and cigarettes — 20 a day — kept him fit. On being 70, he said: "It feels fine when you consider the alternative. I can still play 36 holes of golf in a day, though it gets a bit like hard work sometimes."

72 officers killed in U.S. last year

WASHINGTON (R) — Seventy-two law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in the United States last year, the lowest number for 16 years, the FBI said Saturday. It said the killings, down from 80 in 1983 and 92 in the previous year, marked the smallest number of police killed since 1968 when 64 were murdered. Of last year's victims, 34 belonged to city police forces, followed by 24 county officers, 13 working for state law enforcement agencies and one government agent working for the customs service. All but nine of the killings were solved, the FBI said. About half the murders involved bandits and took place as the officers were trying to catch or arrest suspects.

Austrian minister's wife found dead

VIENNA (R) — Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz's wife Helga was found dead in bed in her Vienna flat after a coronary believed to have been caused by medicines mixed with alcohol, police said. A police spokesman said there were no signs of foul play, but as there were also no signs of her having committed suicide, a post mortem would be conducted in the next few days. He said Mrs. Gratz had been ill in bed for several days. It was possible she may have died by accidentally mixing alcohol with strong medicines she was taking, he added. The spokesman did not state her illness. She had been separated from her husband for several months. The wife of Mr. Gratz's predecessor, Erwin Lenz, shot herself in the head and died in November 1983.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

1984 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠A36 ♠954 ♠A83 ♠Q982
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♠ Dble
 What action do you take?
 A. — Your nine "soft" points are not quite good enough for a redouble, but you must take some action. Nothing other than one no trump should even come into consideration. Over a takeout double, that shows fair values.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠J10652 ♠Q5 ♠J82 ♠954
 Partner opens the bidding with three no trump. What action do you take?
 A. — Partner has shown a balanced hand of 25-27 points, so there is no reason to presume that you have enough for slam. Also, there are no grounds for you to decide that four spades will be a better contract. Your smothering of points should be more than enough to assure that partner will make his contract. Pass.

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q873 ♠A883 ♠9 ♠AK106
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♠ Dble Pass 1 ♠
 Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A. — You have better than a minimum takeout double, and you should advise partner of this. However, no violent action is called for — a simple raise to two hearts serves the purpose.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠72 ♠KJ82 ♠AKJ73 ♠85
 What is your opening bid?
 A. — When you hold touching suits, it is sometimes right to open the higher-ranking, four-card suit in preference to the five-card suit, to facilitate a rebid, but this is not the hand for that — there is too big a discrepancy in quality between the suits. Open one diamond.

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠K ♠10765432 ♠A6 ♠854
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 2 NT Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 A. — Your hand has improved with every round of bidding. You have key honors in each of partner's suits, and partner has shown a good hand and at least two hearts with his bid of two no trump. Since we think you should have a good shot at four hearts, we would bid it.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠QJ1076432 ♠K7 ♠92 ♠8
 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
 A. — For all you know, this might not be your hand. You have few defensive values but great offensive potential. Jump to four spades — a preemptive action. If you bid one spade first and then jump to four spades, partner will expect far more from you in the way of high cards.